



WARLOCK OF THE MAGUS WORLD

BOOK 02

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Warlock of the Magus World

(巫界术士)

by

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Synopsis

-What happens when a scientist from a futuristic world reincarnates in a World of Magic and Knights?

An awesome MC is what happens!

A scientist's goal is to explore the secrets of the universe, and this is exactly what Leylin sets out to do when he is reincarnated.

Dark, cold and calculating, he makes use of all his resources as he sets off on his adventures to meet his goal.

Face? Who needs that... Hmmm... that guy seems too powerful for me to take on now... I better keep a low profile for now.

You want me to help you? Sure... but what benefit can I get out of it? Nothing? Bye.

Hmmm... that guy looks like he might cause me problems in the future.

Should I let him off for now and let him grow into someone that can threaten me..... Nahhh. kill-

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Chapter 101: Branded Swordsman

After many discussions, the major Magisteriums in the South Coast had all unanimously agreed to restrict the advancement to an official Magus.

Under the purview of the contract, all guilds must abide by it solemnly, to control the acolyte's advancement to an official Magus. Even if it was the academy or family absorbing newcomers, they must swear to a strict secrecy.

There was an exception — information found within historical items and places!

In the expanse of the South Coast, there were many traces of the Magi remnants.

All of them were located in extremely perilous locations. Even official Magi had to risk their lives to search for a piece of them.

Moreover, even if they were remnants, one cannot be sure of their contents.

Take Leylin for example, previously he spent a countless amount of resources and effort, yet he obtained nothing in the end. It was an extremely common situation.

However, once Magi discovered a trace of ancient remnants and

obtain their inheritance or other precious resources, it would be the start of another legend!

Although searching for remnants had many unforeseeable dangers, it still drove many Magi to seek them.

The restrictions on the knowledge to advance to an official Magus was signed by all Magisteriums and guilds of the South Coast. Hence, any remnants that existed before the agreement were very likely to contain information regarding official Magus advancement!

This was the reason for the birth of a few guildless official Magi!

According to the information gathered from Leylin's inquiries, Dorotte became an official Magus only after he discovered a piece of information related to advancement while adventuring.

Although the amount of information missing was over 60% of the original and it was definitely not possible to become a Magus just by relying on it, it was still very precious!

Moreover, Leylin was only a Level 3 Acolyte. Before he became a Magus, he wasn't sure of his importance to Dorotte and whether he could conduct such an important transaction with him.

To obtain this piece of information, it could only be carried out through Kroft.

“Alright then! However, you should know the rarity of information concerning the advancement to an official Magus. What are you planning to exchange for it?”

“Although the information is extremely valuable, this and other single-use records are vastly different. I believe that this will leave Professor Dorotte satisfied!”

Leylin said as he put a hefty bag in Kroft’s hands.

“Moreover, after obtaining this piece of information, Professor you can also have a copy of it!”

Towards Leylin’s suggestion, Kroft only raised his eyebrows, not saying anything.

But when he opened the bag, he could not help but sigh. “That old bag of bones Dorotte, would most likely not be able to reject you!”

Leylin smiled.

In the bag he handed to Kroft, not only was it filled with a large number of Magic Crystals and precious ingredients, there was also a Flourishing Flower.

This ingredient was extremely difficult to obtain and had regenerative abilities for magicians with broken limbs.

As for the environment required for the Flourishing Flower to thrive, it must be in a place with a large number of vengeful spirits. Every day, it would be watered with the blood of dying people in order to grow.

These ingredients were not common even in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

After all, in the breeding of artificial spirits, the research done by Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were far less suitable compared to Leylin, who had the help from A.I. Chip.

If not for the news to recall Leylin, he would have already completed this nurturing experiment.

As for this Flourishing Flower, it was a by-product from the experiment lab.

Currently, Dorotte was looking all over for materials to regenerate Jayden's arm, these materials were an enticement which Dorotte could not refuse!

Although he knew this, Leylin was still apprehensive about giving away such a precious material.

As he had produced a Void Flower in the past and now that he had produced another precious ingredient, the Flourishing Flower, it would be hard to prevent suspicion.

But if he wanted a favour from Dorotte, he could not avoid bringing out this Flourishing Flower.

And he was fortunate that this item was rare.

Within the Magus World, there were many examples of frustrated and destitute acolytes who had stumbled across ancient remnants of Magi and turned into an official Magus becoming an overlord of a region.

Compared to them, Leylin's luck was only so-so.

.....

Three days later, within the laboratory.

Leylin's wish had at last been fulfilled and now he held the information in his hands.

“Branded Swordsman? What's that?” Leylin frowned, “Wasn't this supposed to have something to help me become a Magus?”

“Haha... when I first received this, I was also rather doubtful. But Dorotte explained it to me,” said Kroft.

“Leylin! Magi are people who possess mysterious powers! In ancient times, those with great power were often labelled as

magicians! As for Branded Swordsman, through the alchemical runes, a magic spell formation would be branded on their body, allowing them to gain power. It is a small division of the ancient Magi!”

Kroft began teaching Leylin, “I see that you are now a Knight. Therefore, as far as you are concerned, it is indeed appropriate for you to become a Branded Swordsman.”

“I understand!”

Leylin was peering through a scrap of information as he said, “Branded Swordsman seem to emphasize more of physical strength training. Through the regular practice and branding, nature’s strength would be stored inside their body. In crucial moments, the energy would erupt explosively....”

“Why does it seem to resemble... a Knight?” Leylin’s eyes flashed.

“Correct! You interpreted it well! Part of the information regarding the inheritance of ancient Branded Swordsman was widely spread. After some modifications, it was suited more towards regular humans. This turned into the creation of Knights and Grand Knights!”

Kroft nodded.

“Which is to say, a Branded Swordsman is an advanced version of

a Knight!” Leylin had now gained some understanding.

“However, it’s a pity that more than 60% of the information is missing. Especially the part about branding and spell formation setting, it is almost all gone. Attempting to forcibly brand a spell formation on the body, will only cause the Magus’ Magic Power to be in a mess....”

A regretful look flashed across Kroft’s face.

“In ancient times, the combination of Branded Swordsman and Magi were a nightmare to enemies of many other worlds....”

“Although this is the case, I am still very grateful to Professor!” Leylin bowed once again.

After walking out from the experiment lab, Leylin placed the book, which recorded the details of the Branded Swordsman, in his arms.

“Although it is quite dilapidated, I still have the A.I. Chip. Perhaps, I can use it to compute the remainder of the information. ..”

Leylin consoled himself, feeling much better suddenly.

He always liked to prepare a few backup plans.

The advanced meditation technique in Zither Moon Mountain Plains was only a myth. It was derived from a few broken pieces of information from Roman, which almost had zero credibility. If not for Leylin having seen similar content back in the experiment lab close to the Great Mankestre Snake's lair, he would most likely not believe in it.

Moreover, even if the Dylan Gardens existed, would there even be a piece of the Great Magus Serholm's inheritance? Even if there was, Leylin did not know if the advanced meditation technique was suitable for him.

By setting off, Leylin would be able to pick up a high-grade meditation technique that was suited to him; Leylin did not dare bet on his luck

Hence, the preparation of a backup plan and now it became necessary to carry it out.

He had a portion of the Grine Water, the A.I. Chip was also simulating the Rank 1 defensive spell model. Now he managed to obtain advanced information concerning Branded Swordsman. All these would be simulated into a completed piece of information regarding advancement.

Leylin decided that if he failed to discover anything in the Zither Moon Mountain Plains, he would apply for graduation. He would then roam the South Coast, searching for remnants and obtaining information on high-grade meditation techniques.

If he did not obtain a meditation technique suited for him by 50, he would forcefully use the information in his hands to advance into a Magus.

Although this might cause difficulties for future advancements, Leylin felt that if he did not see any hope of advancement by 15, it was better to raise his strength before seeking better alternatives.

On the route back to the dorm.

Recently, Bicky had paid very few visits to him. In the vast level of the dorm, Leylin was the only one who lived here.

Leylin looked at the two sides of the dull and lifeless hall and sighed. “Although the concealment is not too bad, with fewer people coming to bother you, living in such a place is really somewhat dreary....”

After entering his own room in the dorm with the bright lamp, Leylin felt much better.

Walking to the simple experiment lab, Leylin thought in his mind.

“A.I. Chip! How is the progress on the simulation of Rank 1 Spell defensive model? Also the simulation the Grine Water?”

[Rank 1 defensive spell model simulation progress: 14.3%. Estimated completion: 765 days!]

Towards the simulation of a Rank 1 Spell model, the A.I. Chip gave an unexpectedly long duration. However, Leylin was extremely pleased with this.

Previously the A.I. Chip was not able to estimate the progress of a successful simulation. However, after recording the massive amount of information in the hidden library, the A.I. Chip finally allowed Leylin to see a glimmer of hope in a completed Rank 1 Spell model!

“As long as it can be completed! Two years, I can afford it!”

Two years later, Leylin would only be 19, still in the prime of Level 3 Acolyte. This was the benefit of youth, never fearing that time was not enough.

[Calculating Grine Water formula in progress: 5.32%. Estimated ingredients: Fruit of Thousand-Eyed Tree, fresh blood of a Giant Tidal Snake....]

[Estimated effect: A huge consumption on acolyte's life force, to stimulate breakthrough of Spiritual Force bottleneck!]

“So that's the case!” Looking at the A.I. Chip's analysis, Leylin finally knew why the academy viewed a Level 3 Acolyte below 20 years of age as potential Magus....

Grine Water's effect was to consume a magician's lifespan in

exchange for a stimulated breakthrough.

The younger the acolyte, the more life force there is for consumption. Hence the higher possibility of a breakthrough.

Once an acolyte has an ageing body, they wouldn't be able to breakthrough even with Grine Water. This was because their physical body no longer had any more life force to be consumed.

“It seems that the previous situation has to be altered!”

Leylin stroked his chin. “The matter of searching for high-grade meditation technique will have to be pushed forward. Moreover, I cannot wait till I'm fifty! Thirty years old! After I'm thirty, if I haven't managed to find any high-grade meditation technique, I must try in breaking through!”

After firming his resolve, Leylin tidied up the experiment lab and took out an ancient Potioneering scroll.

Chapter 102: Brewing An Ancient Potion

“Ancient Medicine: Tears of Mary formula. Begin the 1,312,933rd drug simulation!”

Leylin had received 2 sheets of medicinal formulas from Professor Kroft. One of them was about the Azure Potion, for which he had found substitute ingredients that had helped him reach his current level.

The other one, Tears of Mary, involved the concepts from his soul research. This had left Leylin at a loss as to how he should proceed.

Afterwards, with the observations from the bulk experiments at Extreme Night City, Leylin had gathered vast amounts of data regarding souls, and was thus pushing for the analysis of the formula of the ancient drug, Tears of Mary.

Finally, after having obtained the Grine Water, the A.I. Chip had performed reverse engineering to find out the refining process of the Grine Water, and had eventually overcome the last obstacle in concocting the Tears of Mary.

However, to Leylin’s dismay, he found that some of the steps in the formula for the Tears of Mary could only be completed by an official Magus!

Moreover, many of the processes required huge reserves of

Spiritual Force that was at least at the level of an official Magus.

This situation proved that Leylin's prior guess was correct — the Tears of Mary was definitely the secret formula for the ancient Magi to increase their Spiritual Force!

Thus, Leylin's eagerness to successfully configure the Tears of Mary was reinforced.

His Spiritual Force had not increased over a long period of time.

His body had developed a complete resistance to the modified Azure Potion, so even if he were to drink more of the potion, his Spiritual Force would not increase even a little bit.

Also, after having increased his Spiritual Force using medicine, trying to increase it using his regular meditation technique was something he couldn't endure because the rate of increase was similar to a tortoise's pace.

His current Spiritual Force was just not quite enough to be able to break through the boundary to become an official Magus.

According to the A.I. Chip's calculations and his own estimation, with his regular meditation, it would take him several years to become an official Magus!

Leylin could not wait that long, hence he brewed a new type of potion. Apart from that, he had been collecting other formulas all

the while.

Other ancient potion formulas were mostly controlled by the official Magi. Leylin did not have many treasured ingredients with him that he could exchange for, and did not wish to draw too much attention to himself..

Moreover, compared to simulating and brewing an entire new formula, more than half of the formula for the Tears of Mary was solved so it was the better choice.

Leylin boldly replaced a few brewing processes that could only be executed by an official Magus into one that was suited for a Level 3 Acolyte to brew with.

After tens of thousands of modifications, together with the A.I. Chip's millions of simulations, Leylin's experiment now was very close to succeeding.

“First of all, I need the basic material for the formula, a female vengeful spirit!.”

From the corner of his experiment desk, Leylin picked up a brand new Confining Spirit Sphere. Within it was a woman wearing a red gown, and looking at Leylin with an expression of fright.

The energy waves emitted from this female vengeful spirit which was not even close to those of Roman, who was only a Level 1 Acolyte.

After most of the acolytes in the academy had perished, it was the golden age of self-development for the surviving acolytes.

Originally, the resources for the acolytes in the academy had been for a thousand acolytes, but now, they had all been released for these 50 remaining acolytes.

Furthermore, the prices of all ingredients and spell models had been marked down drastically compared to the time before the bloodbath.

For example, a vengeful spirit was originally a rare commodity in the market. Once they had been seen on the market, they would have been bought immediately by acolytes, and the prices could have been up to 500 Magic Crystals.

As for now, Leylin went to the counter to look at the price, and bought it immediately. His expenditure did not even amount to 100 Magic Crystals!

Of course, this was a disguised reward from the academy to the survivors!

This situation continued all the way until the next batch of recruits.

However, in this discounted sale, Leylin quickly threw away the notion of reselling at a high price outside. The academy had long

since forbidden this. If they were caught, the circumstances would be severe.

Leylin made use of this opportunity, and spent half of his Magic Crystals savings, buying a large amount of resources and strange spell models.

The female vengeful spirit in the Confining Spirit Sphere had long, silver hair; dark blue eyes; and soft, moistened lips. She also had a slender waist and long legs. When she was alive, she would have definitely been an outstanding woman who drove men crazy!

“What a pity!”

Leylin sighed, yet his hand continued to move and dropped a silver liquid onto the Confining Spirit Sphere.

This was the “Dissolving Spirit Potion”. Back when Leylin had specially prepared it for Roman, with only a few drops, Roman would have definitely been shrieking for half a day, and even sustain a severe injury.

As of now, the remainder was used by Leylin here.

“Ah... It hurts! Please... I beg you! No...!”

The vengeful spirit continued to wail from within the crystal ball. Towards such an extraordinary woman, any man would have at least hesitated deep down within their heart.

However, Leylin's brows had not furrowed the slightest as he continued the movement with his hands.

As more of the Dissolving Spirit Potion was used, the pleading of the female vengeful spirit was becoming more and more muffled. Even her red robes were slowly dissolving, revealing an illusory, and yet alluring glowing skin.

"You want to entice me?" Looking at this scene, Leylin's lips curled up in ridicule.

"Vengeful spirit! Reveal your original ugly form!" Leylin raised a finger with a large, black needle protruding from the nail.

Sssii!

The black long needle pierced through the crystal ball, and directly into the chest of the female vengeful spirit.

"Argh!" The female vengeful spirit let off a hair-raising scream, and her body became blurry. Once she could be seen again, the vengeful spirit that was in front of Leylin's eyes had taken on a completely different form.

The face was filled with scales and wrinkles, and the orifices seemed to be misaligned, as though someone had casually attached them to her face. There were a few strands of green hair on the sides of her bald head.

The mouth opened and closed, and razor sharp teeth could be seen. From time to time, a disgusting, viscous liquid could be seen dripping from her scarlet tongue.

“Ao!”

The female vengeful spirit's eyes contained a greed that could rip people apart. She stared intently at Leylin as if wanting to gobble him down immediately.

“Your outer appearance and inner self are ugly throughout!”

.....

Leylin mocked her and laughed, before drawing another mysterious magic rune...

The experiment lasted for over a dozen hours and continued the way until the second day before the end was near.

Inside the experiment lab.

Inside a scarlet pentagonal formation, a naked body with bumps through could be seen. The beautiful face of the female vengeful spirit had been tied down by a metal chain, trapped within the spell formation.

At this moment, although the female vengeful spirit looked to be phantom, as if disappearing in the next moment, her face no longer had the craze and hate from before. Instead, there was a shy expression on it.

Combining with the binding of the metal chains, it even creates a sadomasochistic desire!

Leylin looked at the naked woman in front of him, his face revealing a satisfied expression. “After a long day, I have finally removed all of the grievances from it!”

“Thank you! Young man! However, could you release me and give me some clothes to wear?”

The woman spoke within the formation, her voice as delightful as a black-naped oriole bird.

“Are you joking? I spent so much effort to release you from your grievance, not for some gratification!”

After hearing Leylin’s words, the female vengeful spirit suddenly felt that a calamity was looming over her.

Disturbed, crazed and pondering expressions flashed through Leylin’s face. Finally, they all uniformed into only one expression—Apathy! Indifference towards everything!

.....

A few hours passed.

At this moment, there was a chill permeating the experiment lab.

One could almost hear the wails of vengeful spirits within these four walls.

As for the female vengeful spirit in front of Leylin, it had almost lost its human appearance.

“The last step!” Leylin picked up a silver fork and pierced the female vengeful spirit’s head through the eyes.

“Pu!”

As if made from some special materials, the silver fork directly pierced through the female vengeful spirit’s eyeball.

“Hehe!” The female vengeful spirit squirmed and screamed like a wild beast, as if without a tongue.

After the fork had pierced the eyeball, the face of the female vengeful spirit could barely be made out. Two trickles of blood tears flowed down.

“This is the ancient potion—Tears of Mary?”

Leylin raised his hand, dripping a few drops of blood in his hands.

An icy cold and viscous sensation was felt.

“The spirit is an illusory thing. As for me, I could actually come in contact with a spirit’s tears, what a wonder....”

Leylin muttered as he smeared the red potion on his eyes.

Bang!

An extremely spicy sensation travelled from Leylin’s eyes, causing immense pain.

Red! His vision could only see the colour red!”

There seemed to be a woman’s voice sounding inside his brain as if narrating something. The voice gradually grew louder and louder.

Finally, Leylin could only grab his head and head-butt viciously against the wall, to ease this symptom.

The A.I. Chip’s indicator appeared in front of Leylin.

[Subject underwent an unknown effect. Spiritual Force increased. Currently, it is 14.3....]

The data that represented Leylin's Spiritual Force continuously increased.

14.8

15.3

15.8

16.1

The number which represented the Spiritual Force continuously rose, finally stopping at the number 16.1.

“Hu... It has finally passed!”

Leylin rubbed his temples firmly, as he inhaled a lungful of cold air.

“Although it's very painful, the side effects are not too much...”

Before he could finish speaking, Leylin discovered that there was a thin layer of mist in the surroundings.

A flash of red colour robes streaked past in the room.

Leylin wanted to move, yet the air seemed to be extremely muddy like starch paste. Any movement would be difficult to execute!

Finally, the owner of the red robes appeared in front of Leylin — the vengeful spirit!

At this moment, more than half of the vengeful spirit's head had dissolved.

“If it was another time! Such an attack!”

Leylin was extremely unwilling, but he was still struck in the chest by that claw.

An icy cold chill started to spread from his chest.

Chapter 103: A Meeting

The vengeful spirit wearing red robes continuously attacked, clawing strips of flesh off of Leylin's body.

Leylin's expression of anger turned into indifference.

A few minutes later, he opened his mouth with difficulty, "Gurisasi ~ duoluxian!"

A dark-green flame burned on Leylin's body, setting everything in the experiment lab ablaze....

"Hu..."

After the dark-green flame was extinguished, Leylin recovered his mobility.

At this moment, he finally had enough strength to look around at his surroundings.

The experiment lab was the same as before, all apparatus lying neatly in their original position.

As for the pentagon formation, it had lost all of its light, and the vengeful spirit was nowhere to be found.

On Leylin, there were no traces of injuries, yet his expression did not seem well.

It was because different indicators flashed from the A.I. Chip:

[Host has suffered from an unknown forcefield attack, determined from the database to be caused by a vengeful spirit! Vitality decreased by 0.1]

[Host has suffered from an unknown forcefield attack, determined from the database to be caused by a vengeful spirit! Vitality decreased by 0.1]

[Host has suffered from an unknown forcefield attack, determined from the database to be caused by a vengeful spirit! Vitality decreased by 0.1]

After 3 indications, Leylin's face looked even more awful, "A.I. Chip, show me my current status!"

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.4, Spiritual Force: 16.1, Magic Power: 16 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

After the upgrade from using Tears of Mary, Leylin's Spiritual Force reached 16.1. However, his Vitality decreased by 0.3. Clearly, this was caused by the attack of the vengeful spirit.

“As expected, an ancient potion’s formulary cannot be modified so easily!”

Leylin sighed. He acted on his own initiative, changing many processes of the formulary, thus causing such an outcome.

“However, this decrease in Vitality, compared to the increase in Spiritual Force, shows the value of this potion!”

Leylin was certain of his modified formulary for the ancient potion, Tears of Mary.

“Ancient potion – Tears of Mary modification successful, Host to give a name!”

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Blood Vengeance Potion!” Leylin thought of the final, flash of red, blurting out the name.

Although this potion requires a vengeful spirit as an ingredient, which was somewhat cruel, it was a potion that was hard to come by!

A single use could raise Spiritual Force by 3 points! The only minor backlash was : it was on the same level as the Azure Potion that Leylin had modified before.

As for the formulation process of this potion, it was somewhat ruthless. However, Leylin did not bother about it.

For Leylin, carrying out ruthless actions and even killing people, was well within reason when in the face of benefits!

People who only kill for joy were mental and inhumane.

In his previous world, the environment was peaceful, so naturally he had also advocated peace then.

However, in the Magus World, war was everywhere. Deaths occurred daily. The plebeians who faced dawn did not know if they would be alive to see the sun set.

The law of the jungle and survival of the fittest were proclaimed explicitly by various powerful guilds and organisations.

After coming to this world, Leylin followed ‘when in Rome, do as the Romans do’ and this became a completely egotistical person.

As long as this potion was beneficial and did not cause him much hassle, he would not hesitate to create more of it!

“This is the feeling of achieving 16 Spiritual Force, huh? How amazing!”

Leylin shut his eyes, feeling the difference this increase brought

him.

Under his control, the Spiritual Force seemed to be a silver thread as it swept past every item in the room. Moreover, each of the item's physical shape was perceived within Leylin's mind.

For regular acolytes, this was an extremely fresh feeling. However, Leylin saw that after a certain standard was achieved in Spiritual Force, it had a scanning effect similar to that of the A.I. Chip!

“This effect, if mastered properly, could discover a majority of ambushes, never having to fear for another sneak attack!”

Leylin appreciated the wondrous use of the Spiritual Force.

“It's a pity, however. For me, this is not as useful as the A.I. Chip!”

In his sea of consciousness, waves of Spiritual Force constantly surged at the borders, continuously expanding the area of the sea.

“Only that this external change is too obvious!”

Leylin picked up a bronze mirror. On the screen of the bronze mirror, a brown-haired youthful countenance was reflected. However, a pair of gleaming eyes flashed like diamonds in the night.

Normally, the upper limits of Spiritual Force for Level 3 Acolytes were 15, yet Leylin far exceeded this figure.

Moreover, when Level 3 Acolytes were about to breakthrough into an official Magus, their eyes would often show unusual signs of attraction.

That was the result of the boundless expansion in their massive sea of consciousness.

However, for Leylin, this was not good news. To others, he was just a newly advanced Level 3 Acolyte, yet now he exceeded those limits, this would bring about curiosity and suspicion from others.

If it was some regular acolyte, Leylin wasn't too afraid. But if an official Magus required him to cooperate for questioning, then Leylin would meet with some trouble.

After all, Leylin had no confidence against official Magus since the A.I. Chip could not detect them.

“I can only conceal this for the time being!”

Leylin chanted a short incantation.

Creaking and cracking noises resounded on his face and his eyes dimmed, no longer radiating light.

This was a simple use of the Shapeshifting spell—the ability to modify facial features.

Many female official Magus would obtain such a spell and cast it on their faces, achieving a beautification effect.

“I hope this can conceal my presence for the time being!” Leylin was not confident.

After several modifications of the Shapeshifting spell by the A.I. Chip, Level 3 Acolytes would not be able to discover this.

However, Leylin was completely unsure if he could face an official Magus

If they just walked past him, they may not notice his concealment. As long as they did not use any detection spells, he should be able to mask it.

Deep down in his heart, Leylin had already decided. After travelling around the Poolfield Kingdom and discovering the vestige traces, he would set off to Zither Moon Mountain Plains in search of the remnants of the Great Magus Serholm.

In any case, Leylin had expressed his interest to Kroft for wanting to travel, so suggesting it not did not seem too abrupt.

After making some arrangements, Leylin rubbed his rumbling stomach, giving a wry smile. His experiment had already extended over a day's worth of time.

No matter how high his Vitality was, he was still a mortal, unable to escape from the laws of nature. Hence, there were symptoms of hunger.

Although he could replenish his strength with potions, Leylin still felt nauseous. Moreover, if the circumstances allowed for a better option, he would not mistreat himself.

Since the academy had a restaurant, why waste a potion?

Leylin cleaned up and opened his dorm's door.

Pa! A white letter fell onto the ground. It seemed like someone paid Leylin a visit earlier. However, after seeing him concentrate on his experiment, they did not dare intrude, hence leaving a simple note.

“Who would it be? Bicky? Nyssa? Or someone else...”

Leylin opened the letter in curiosity.

After seeing the signature, Leylin's expression was shocked, “It's actually Jayden!”

As a fifth-grade genius acolyte, Jayden was somewhat of a lone wolf, seldom interacting with other acolytes.

As for now, Jayden actually took the initiative to meet with Leylin, which shocked Leylin.

“However, since he’s visited me, then I’ll meet him!”

After thinking for a while, Leylin raised his somewhat pale finger, directing scribbling on the white note.

Every time his finger drew across, red characters would be left on the note.

There was a simple spell cast on this paper note by Jayden, which could transmit some simple information. Of course, it was only usable in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy area, widely loved by acolytes.

The recipient’s reply was extremely quick. Very soon, Leylin met up with Jayden inside of a room in the restaurant.

Jayden now seemed to be gloomier. Looking at the area of his severed limb, Leylin noticed that a slim tiny arm had regrown and could not help but laugh.

It seems that his Flourishing Flower had been given to Jayden by Dorotte. What he did not know was the promise Jayden had to make in exchange for the Flourishing Flower.

“I have not thanked you regarding the Flourishing Flower!”

Jayden sat on the white chair, raising his cup to Leylin.

This gesture was somewhat unethical. Leylin frowned internally, yet not did not outwardly speak much about it.

After looking for a chair to sit down, he ignored the delicacy and aroma displayed in front of him. Leylin smiled in sincerity, “Regarding the information of official Magus that Professor Dorotte had exchanged with me, I should be the one expressing my thanks!”

Naturally, Leylin had no clue that Dorotte had this information of advancing into a Branded Swordsman.

It was Jayden who had leaked the news to him. As for the reason why—it was probably due to Leylin ‘accidentally’ letting Jayden know that he had the Flourishing Flower.

For Leylin, he would reap the largest benefit from Jayden, who desperately needed the Flourishing Flower to regrow his limb.

Jayden’s expression turned softer, “No matter what, we are acolytes who came from the same area, so it’s well within reason to help each other....”

Leylin too gave him some superficial replies, before Jayden finally revealed his motive for seeking Leylin today.

“Leylin, Professor Dorotte had long since told me that the information he had given you, a major portion of it was missing. There is no way that it could be reliable for advancing into an official Magus. It is because you also want to look for other traces that you are eager to go exploring, isn't it?”

“Of course, no matter if it's the academy or the families, their conditions are too much!”

Leylin interlocked his fingers.

This notion was considered by many Level 3 Acolytes. Only when the adventure for the remnants was unfruitful and acknowledging that the golden period of advancement was almost over, would they then consider signing a spiritual contract with the academy or the families.

Chapter 104: Participation

“I just happen to have a trace of remnants regarding official Magus....” Jayden added.

After listening to Leylin’s reply, Jayden’s smile grew even wider.

“Remnants? Clues? You actually dare to go out?”

Leylin was somewhat shocked. In the eyes of an outsider, Jayden was the murderer of Torash from the enemy academy. The hatred held by the enemy official Magus was already locked onto him, yet he still dared leave for an exploration?

After hearing Leylin’s words, Jayden’s face darkened.

“I will kill that old geezer sooner or later! I’ll turn his corpse into a specimen and keep it in my lab...”

After cursing, Jayden then explained to Leylin, “The power of the Lighthouse of the Night is still formidable. Under the mediation of that lord Magus, the Sage Gotham Hut and the Whitewoods Castle would not dare to exact revenge hastily; not unless they wish to be destroyed!”

“On the contrary, with the passing of time, the treaty was agreed at a span of 20 years. My situation consists of constant dangers. Hence, for this, I have to retaliate somehow, to ensure myself with

the ability to protect my life!”

“Becoming an official Magus?” Leylin’s brows furrowed as he guessed Jayden’s intention.

“Indeed! To go against an official Magus, one would only have the ability after becoming an official Magus!” A longing expression streaked across Jayden’s face, “Once I become an official Magus, why would I still be afraid of the enemy’s retaliation?”

Leylin nodded his head — Jayden’s train of thought was correct.

The protection of the academy and the professors were external factors, which could be removed at any given time. Only the strength that belongs to oneself is the most reliable factor!

After understanding the situation briefly, Leylin began to relax, slowly reclining in his chair.

“So then, I have two questions. Where are the remnants? Why me?”

Jayden inhaled a lungful of air and knew that if he did not reveal any information, Leylin would naturally not take the bait.

“I cannot reveal the location of the remnants. However, I can tell you the general location. It’s near Zither Moon Mountain Plains....”

Upon speaking the four words, ‘Zither Moon Mountain Plains’, Leylin’s pupils contracted, yet very soon he recollected himself. This change, which happened within a fraction of a second, went completely unnoticed by Jayden.

“As for why I sought you out?”

Jayden smiled wryly, “Zither Moon Mountain Plains is littered with poisonous plants and miasma. A Potioneering acolyte needs to come along, to ensure our safety... Right now in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the person I am familiar with, who is also a Level 3 Acolyte, is only you....”

Leylin stared blankly, only then did he recall that the acolytes in the academy barely amounted to 50.

Back when Abyssal Bone Forest Academy had thousands of acolytes, there were plenty of Potioneering acolytes around. Hence, Jayden could take his time to choose.

However, after the bloodbath, Jayden’s choice was extremely limited, so much so that the only option left was—Leylin!

“Although I don’t know if the remnants that Jayden mentioned were left behind by the Great Magus Serholm; since the vengeful spirit Roman had found clues to it, it’s well within reason that Jayden had discovered something too....”

Thoughts spun in Leylin's head, yet on the surface, he looked hesitant.

“The war has just ended. Right now it's too dangerous to leave the academy....”

“According to my sources, the remnants are of an official Magus. There could very well be information and resources on advancing into an official Magus. Isn't that what you need right now? Moreover, as long as you agree to participate, the reward aspects...”

After looking at Leylin's expression, Jayden felt hurried, hence, he continued to elaborate, even adding a few bargaining chips.

Leylin put on a struggling expression, finally agreeing to give it some thought over these couple of days.

After seeing Leylin act like this, Jayden could only consent.

After all, apparently Leylin seemed to be somewhat moved towards the end.

As expected, on the second day, Leylin sought out Jayden, informing him of his decision to participate.

.....

Early in the morning

Leylin and Jayden rode on two black horses each, leaving the compound of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy under the rays of the dawning sun.

Before leaving, Leylin looked at the distant graveyard of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy for one last time.

The grey granite construction seemed to be littered with cracks, as before. However, it might just have been a misconception, but those cracks were seemingly smaller now.

It was as if this massive graveyard was a living organism amidst the processes of recovery.

“The next time I return, there will surely be many changes!”

After that last glance at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Leylin disappeared into the dark forest.

.....

Five days later, within the Poolfield Kingdom, on the outskirts of a province in the west.

On the road, 3 acolytes were waiting.

Ta Ta Ta! As the 3 people looked away into the distance, two figures on horseback appeared on the horizon.

Those two riders stopped in front of the 3 people, revealing the countenance that belonged to Leylin and another unfamiliar acolyte.

“Leylin, let me introduce to you, this is Mister Bosain, from the Lilytell Family....”

The stranger’s voice belonged to Jayden, as he introduced them to Leylin. To avoid trouble, Jayden had masked his appearance.

“Also, this is Shaya and Roth!”

Jayden introduced the group to Leylin. Bosain had golden bright hair and wore silver robes — appearing dressed very grandly. If not for the acolyte mark, Leylin would even think that it was some professor who joined Jayden’s group.

However, Jayden specially emphasised on the Mister honorific and the explanation on the Lilytell Family, giving Leylin a shock.

“Lilytell Family? One of the big-three families in the academy, where every generation has produced at least one official Magus?”

“Indeed, in addition, the chairman of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was elected by the big three families.”

Bosain added, pride evident on his face.

“Which is to say, he could have direct access to high-grade meditation techniques! Or, I can...” Leylin outwardly displayed a shocked expression with a tinge of envy, satisfying the ego of Bosain.

However deep down, he had some villainous thoughts.

As for Shaya, she was a fire-haired female acolyte, reminding Leylin of Neela. Ever since his return to the academy, he hasn’t seen Neela once.

She could be dead, or she did not receive the academy’s notice. There was also the possibility that she abandoned the academy and escaped.

Towards her, Leylin only sighed gently, before removing her from his thoughts.

As for the last member of the small party—Roth—he was the archetype male of the West. His stature was tall and big, taller than Leylin by half a head, his face containing a simple and honest expression.

However, Leylin did not dare to be careless. Acolytes who could survive in the bloodbath were not simple characters.

Moreover, these 3 people had the energy waves of Level 3 Acolytes. Bosain and Shaya even had the aura of Magic Artifacts on their body, as detected by the A.I. Chip.

“Hello! I’m Leylin, a Potioneering acolyte, I hope that...”

Leylin introduced himself to the rest.

“The Zither Moon Mountain Plains is perilous, however, I have heard of your reputation being only lower to the Potioneering genius Merlin! I believe that you would ensure our logistics and safety. . . ”

Bosain smiled amiably at Leylin, giving a feeling of warmth.

“I’ll try my best!” Leylin nodded his head.

“Alright! It’s getting late, let’s set off!”

Leylin nodded his head, and the five of them began their journey.

However, deep down, Leylin was somewhat disgruntled towards Jayden’s action of adding more members without consulting him. He certainly did not approve of the current situation.

Moreover, Bosain’s identity seemed to give him a troublesome feeling.

As if noticing something, Jayden engaged in a private conversation to explain to him.

“Bosain and the rest found out about my plans incidentally and insisted on joining. For this reason, he did not hesitate to keep the truth from his own family members and his professor, and sneaked out of the academy!” Jayden smiled wryly, “You know it as well, I am unable to refuse them!”

For the big families behind the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, it was the most dangerous period right now since the war ended. Bosain, as the successor of the family, has to always be inside the academy compounds.

However, now he did not even bring a bodyguard, which indicated that this was a covert exploration. Even his family did not know of his destination.

Concerning this, Leylin could only smile wryly and be more wary of his surroundings, with no better idea in mind.

The Zither Moon Mountain Plains was situated on the western borders of the Poolfield Kingdom. It was the boundary between the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Sage Gotham Hut.

These two forces had just ended a huge war and Jayden even carried a blood debt since he killed the enemy's genius. Once this party was discovered, they would definitely have problems.

No matter if it was Leylin or Jayden, or Bosain and the rest, they were all intelligent and conscientious people. Moreover at crucial moments, they had the courage to fight for their lives.

Along the way, the five of them changed their travelling outfits into those of young, noble masters and mistress, continuously travelling along the western borders.

Without a doubt, it wouldn't be inaccurate to say that knowledge and power were wielded in the hands of nobles. In the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, most acolytes were born of nobility and had no need to learn how to dress as one.

This was why the five of them dressed as nobility. Their disposition was naturally formed, if they were to dress as someone else, they would definitely be noticed.

Leylin too tried to get closer with the other 3 acolytes.

Shaya and Roth were rather friendly. The most important factor was that Leylin was also a Level 3 Acolyte, moreover, he was acknowledged by them in having talent in Potioneering, so they were somewhat friendly.

As for Bosain, he had the behaviour of being an elite amongst magicians.

Refined and courteous, yet arrogant to the skies. He had the deceitful characteristics of the nobility, so he appeared somewhat

indifferent towards Leylin and the other acolytes.

Leylin felt that once he spoke of any information regarding the high-grade meditation technique, he would definitely gain the attention of Bosain.

However, even if that was the case, after many days being together with them, Leylin had, more or less, determined their stats.

Chapter 105: The Zither Moon Town

Apart from Leylin, among this party of five, Bosain would be the strongest based on stats.

In the stats detected by the A.I. Chip, Bosain's Spiritual Force had reached 15! It was already the requirement needed to advance to the level of an official Magus.

However, for some reason, it was concealed like Leylin's. Bosain also used some secret method to conceal his Spiritual Force's energy waves and also the aberration of his eyes, without letting anyone find out.

Moreover, as a Level 3 Acolyte from a large family, Bosain's Magic Artifact emitted energy waves that were extremely strong, only second to the Fallen Star Pendant hung around Leylin's neck.

In addition, the Lilytell Family was one of the three big families of the academy. If Bosain, who was one of the younger generation that hailed from there, had no Magic Artifact on him, Leylin would be the first to not believe it.

As for Jayden, Shaya, and Roth—they were Level 3 Acolytes who had just advanced. Jayden and Shaya carried Magic Artifacts with them and were stronger than Roth by a small margin. However, Roth was neither obsequious nor supercilious along the way—obviously he had his own hidden trump card.

“Without using any trump cards, between Bosain and I, we have a fifty-fifty chance of winning. As for Shaya and Jayden, they are below us by a little, whereas Roth is ranked the last. However, he cannot be taken too lightly either!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, rapidly calculating that if any conflicts were to occur within the party, what would be the result and the control that he had of such a situation.

However, be it in the novels of his previous world, or the adventure that he undertook today, various adventurers would have internal strife after obtaining the treasures. It was inevitable.

Leylin questioned himself—if Jayden or the rest discovered that it was actually the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm they were after, they would definitely not be willing to share the loot obtained.

Who knew if he might be the first to revolt then?

.....

The Zither Moon Town was a little town located at the foot of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

This day, on a road that was flying with dust, there were five travel-worn horse riders that appeared.

“Alright, we will enter the Zither Moon Mountain Plains from

the Zither Moon Town. Before that, we can have a lodging at the inn in the town!”

Jayden reined in his horse. After getting down, he took out a badly damaged map to have a look.

At this moment, he had a completely different appearance. It was a rather secular face changing spell, which let Leylin somewhat surprised.

“This is the area of the borders. If there were any people from the Sage Gotham Hut academy it wouldn’t be odd at all, so we have to be more careful...”

“We know it already!” Bosain straightened his robes, showing impatience.

The five of them led their horses to an inn called “Ghosts With Grievances Don’t Weep”.

Opening the door, it was as though it was a whole new world. Shouting and clamouring noises, along with the stench of sweat and the odor of alcohol, wafted over.

Jayden’s brow’s furrowed, but he still walked towards the counter, tossing out a golden coin.

“Give me 5 private rooms....”

“I’m sorry, we only have 3 rooms left!” Before Jayden finished speaking, a person, who seemed to be the shop owner and who also stank of rum, interrupted him.

“Alright then! Three rooms, we’ll have it all. Also, give us your best delicacies!”

Finding lodging at an inn in this small town is already considered fortunate, so Jayden did not pursue further.

But when he was paying the money, he complained, “Isn’t this damned place the one that doesn’t have even a few visitors each year? Now, why is it that there are only 3 rooms left?”

“Burp!” The shop owner hiccuped, “Who knows? The Zither Moon Mountain Plains is filled with the damned poisonous gas and miasma. Many of these lads don’t return after setting off. Usually, there are only people here to drink some rum, but regarding gold coins, I seemed to have met with two waves of important guests today!”

“Two waves?” Leylin stepped forward, “Which is to say, there was someone else before us who came here?”

“Indeed, and they even asked for a tour guide. Gold coin payment, bah! Who wants to die in the depths of Zither Moon Mountain Plains?”

After hearing this news, Leylin and the rest looked at each other, having a somewhat ominous premonition.

“Alright! I’ll let Pinky bring you to your rooms!” The shop owner took down 3 keys that were extremely oily, as he shouted, “Pinky! Pinky! Don’t let me wait another second, if not I’ll scrape your skin off....”

Bang! Very soon, a dwarf which wore a grey pointed hat stood in front of the owner.

“Respected Sir, Pinky is here for your bidding....”

This dwarf named Pinky was only half of Leylin’s height. He also wore a flowery green costume, looking somewhat comical.

“Bring our esteemed guests to the rooms upstairs to rest, you know which few!”

The owner casually smacked the dwarf, before handing over the keys.

“Dear guests! Please follow Pinky! Be careful of the steps!”

Pinky touched his hat and led the way at the front.

Leylin and the rest followed behind.

Shaya took off her cloak, revealing a beautiful face and alluring body, and this attracted the whistles from a few drunken blokes suddenly.

Towards this, Shaya was not irked at all, she even sent a few coquettish glances over, igniting some heat within those drunkards.

Looking at these group of animals that were lusting over her, Leylin snickered. This expression of Shaya's showed that she was already angry to a certain extent.

If these drunkards acted recklessly and stepped forward to provoke, they would definitely suffer a fate worse than death!

“Leylin, you and Roth will be in this room, Bosain and me in the other. The last one would be for Shaya, any opinions?”

As the organiser for this adventure, Jayden quickly allocated the rooms to the members.

Seeing Jayden assign the difficult Bosain to himself, Leylin and Roth heaved a sigh of relief, naturally not raising any objections.

Shaya did not say anything either.

“Also, come to my room in a while's time. Towards the previous batch of customers the shop owner mentioned, I am somewhat concerned!” Jayden's brow's furrowed.

“We are all staying at the same inn. I believe that we will definitely see the other party!” Leylin spoke blandly as if hinting at something.

According to that dwarf Pinky, the earlier batch of guests was currently not inside the inn. They seemed to have gone out to purchase some goods, even spending money to hire a tour guide.

Dinner was held at the large hall on the first level. The main dish was mud bean paste, with some wild herbs as seasoning.

However, food like this was, in the eyes of Leylin and the rest, fit only for swines. The few of them had no appetite, yet they were curious about the previous batch of guests, so Leylin and the others chose to remain inside the large hall. They sipped on their drinks as they waited.

Bang!

Leylin was drinking his malt, and Shaya had reached her tolerance limits due to the provocation of a few drunkards beside her when the inn’s door opened at this moment.

Hu Hu! Large gale of cold wind blew into the inn, lowering the somewhat lively atmosphere.

After seeing these few people who just entered, Leylin’s body tensed.

It was five cloaked figures. From the energy waves on their bodies, they were actually Level 2 and 3 Acolytes!

When they entered, they too obviously noticed Leylin and the others.

The line of sight connected between the two parties, and sparks appeared. However, as if nothing had happened, the five cloaked figures did not stop and continued walking towards the second floor.

“How is it? Are they acolytes from the Sage Gotham Hut?”

Shaya whispered, unable to conceal the worry on her face.

“I don’t know, but they are obviously not here on a holiday!” Jayden’s expression darkened.

“I say, if we did not choose this inn for lodging, would we have been able to avoid them?” Roth scratched his head.

“Avoidance?” Bosain smirked in contempt, “It is the thought of weak people. The Lilytell Family would never ever have to avoid!”

Being looked down upon by Bosain, Roth tensed. He was suffering from humiliation, yet he did not react.

“Moreover, the Zither Moon Town is so small, and there is only this one inn. When we entered the town, we were already exposed. Any sudden movements will only attract the vigilance of the other party!”

“The crucial thing is, what is their motive for coming here?” Leylin asked.

“Could it be that they also have found traces of the clues in here?”

Jayden’s expression changed, “I purchased this lead for a heavy price, buying a book that was scribbled with ancient characters.

“Which is to say, the other party could have found something too. Who knows if they might even have a professor who tagged along...” Shaya’s face looked even more uneasy, “Should we abandon the operation this time?”

“No way!” Jayden was the first who refused. For this lead, he had paid too high a price, naturally he was unwilling for them to give up.

“I don’t think any of us here would be willing to let their professors claim half of the benefits that we obtained here after a dangerous exploration” Leylin added.

“However, before they notice us, the situation might change!”

“How about we get rid of them? I took a look, there are only three Level 3 Acolytes and two Level 2 Acolytes!” Jayden revealed a brutal expression.

“We can try, but it has to be done within the Zither Moon Mountain Plains. Moreover, we should eliminate all of the traces. I don’t wish for the other side to find a reason to go to war with us!” Bosain added.

“It could also be some wandering magicians, instead of the acolytes from the Sage Gotham Hut...”

Roth said, his voice extremely soft.

A total of five acolytes, with three Level 3 Acolytes. This formation required too much time and effort to nurture them, so wandering magicians would never be able to do it.

Only academies and large scale magician guilds would be able to send out these many acolytes at once.

“Alright then! No matter where they are from, even for the one percent chance that they are here to seek out the remnants, once they enter the Zither Moon Mountain Plains, they are our enemies!”

Jayden spoke in a murderous tone.

As acolytes, they did not wish to break the unwritten rules of the

Magus World by taking action within the small town where regular humans lived. As for the other party, they could very well hold the same thoughts.

Chapter 106: Moonlight Mayfly

In the depths of the night, due to Jayden's suggestions, the five of them abandoned the idea of resting and all gathered inside one room, where they each took turns for the night watch.

Also, the other team had the same idea.

"They have left!" warned Leylin, who was monitoring the other team's acolytes with the help of A.I. Chip.

Upon hearing his voice, the other 4 acolytes, who were all previously snoozing either on the sofa or on the table, suddenly opened their eyes.

"I heard the sound of their footsteps as they left and they were all heading in the direction of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains' entrance," continued Leylin.

"Choosing the night time to start a war, eh? Let's catch up with them!"

Jayden excitedly spoke.

As people who had survived the bloodbath, Jayden and others had all experienced the letting of the enemy's blood. As far as this situation was concerned, not only did they all not have a common fear experienced by acolytes, instead, they all were looking

forward to it for some unknown reason.

During this whole time, their knapsacks were unopened and left in the corner. Leylin and the rest hurriedly strapped them on and left the inn.

A total of 10 black shadows disappeared in the town, under the dim glow of the starlight.

Sou Sou Sou!

A few black figures that were hard to track using the physical eyes rapidly left the town for the entrance of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

“The other party wouldn’t be so naive that they think they could outrun us. The only possibility is that they chose to fight!”

Leylin’s eyes gleamed, surmising the thoughts of the other party.

However, he had faith in his party!

His side consisted of all Level 3 Acolytes and even had 4 Magic Artifacts. The A.I. Chip did not detect any energy waves from Magic Artifacts on the other party!

Moreover, in the other party, there were two Level 2 Acolytes.

To Leylin, this was where the weak link and burden lies!

Ka-Cha! A branch that was in the way was broken as Leylin dashed through, his speed was not lowering the slightest.

Through meditation, acolytes can reflect their Magic Power on their own bodies, greatly enhancing the physical qualities. Concerning Level 3 Acolyte, the increase of Spiritual Force alone can already bring their Vitality up to 2.5, equal to that of a Knight!

Moreover, Level 3 Acolyte could, through various self-experimentation, obtain stronger and larger physical prowess.

The pitch-black night, together with the jumbled branches and vines, could not hinder the speed of Leylin and his party.

“The other team has stopped!”

Leylin drew to a halt and scrutinized the whole surrounding.

Towering trees with their tops seemingly supporting the heavens, the dense foliage and undergrowth completely shielded them from the starlight, and only trickles of starlight were visible through the leaves.

But this was just enough for acolytes to see.

“This distance is already far from the town. Even if there are any

energy waves, no one would discover it at all!” Jayden placed a green badge on his chest.

“You actually took out your Magic Artifact now, just to deal with a few pieces of trash?” Bosain laughed and retracted his hand into the large sleeves.

Looking at the A.I. Chip’s scan result, Leylin was somewhat speechless.

Under the detection of the A.I. Chip, Bosain too held onto his own Magic Artifact. It was even one which could immediately be activated.

This behavior of Bosain, where he contradicted himself by speaking one thing but doing something else, was something Leylin and Jayden were used to.

On the other side, Shaya and Roth also made their individual preparations.

Acolytes who survived the bloodbath were extremely clear on one point—Even a lion has to use its full force to catch a rabbit! No matter how weak the opponent seems, one must not slack off. If not, the loss of one’s own life might happen!

“Let’s go and get rid of them!” Jayden laughed sardonically and stepped out first.

“Hu....”

After going past a black leafy tree, Leylin saw a dark green marsh.

The surface of the swamp had many dried branches and leaves, interspersed with the corpses of other animals.

On the other side of the swamp, the 5 acolytes that they saw previously were standing there quietly.

What was different about their outfits were that on the cloak and robes, they were already wearing the badge that represented the academy they were in.

“Sage Gotham Hut?” Jayden icily said.

“Acolytes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!” The leader of the other party had some guesses to the identity of Leylin’s party.

“It seems like another bunch of people will be dead again!” Leylin sighed in his heart. As these both parties, the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and the Sage Gotham Hut, had just ended the war, their mutual hatred was as deep as the seas.

Although the mediation by the Lighthouse of the Night had made them sign a peace treaty, that was at most a form of restraint for the official Magi. As for acolytes, if the two sides were to see each other, then it was certain that one side would perish.

The two parties stood quietly and faced off the other. For a moment, even the air seemed to have congealed.

“Actually... We don’t have to....”

The other team’s leader remained silent for a while, then opened his mouth.

Chi Chi

The moment that leader opened his mouth, a murderous glint flashed in Jayden’s eyes and the badge on his chest radiated a ray of green light.

Countless murky green vines with reversed barbs rose from the ground, encircling the five opponents!

In terms of battle experience, Jayden obviously had more than the other party. Moreover, Jayden carried the blood debt of killing Torash. Amongst their party of five, he was the most unwilling to let the enemy go scot-free.

If not, once other party disclosed the news, even if Jayden concealed himself, he would be in the pursuit of the official Magus from the other side!

“Despicable!” “Escaaaaape!” “Aargh!”

The five acolytes obviously did not think that Jayden would be this decisive and ruthless, not even mouthing a greeting before he took action.

Within a fraction of a second, a green whirlwind swirled around two acolytes, increasing their speed and bringing them off the attack area of the vines.

As for another acolyte, there was an orange-red flame that burned in his surroundings. It took on the form of a whip, continuously attacking the vines, which burned in retreat.

As for the last two Level 2 Acolytes, they seemed rather miserable. Countless vines wrapped them into a ball. Along with the tightening of the vines, fresh blood seeped through from within the ball.

“Kill them all!”

The moment Jayden struck, Bosain, Leylin, and the others rushed forward too.

“Right now, I can confirm that this bunch of acolytes is nurtured in the greenhouse, with no experience of seeing a war field that reeks of blood. They are as weak as sheep in the face of a strong adversary!”

Leylin looked at the few acolytes with a pitiable look.

He guessed that these few acolytes did not even participate in the previous bloodbath. Their mentality was the same as when they were inside their academy.

However, he loved opponents like this the most. Because one can reap the largest benefits without spending much effort.

As Leylin dashed forward, he chanted an incantation.

Sssii! A pitch-black hand rose from the shadows, grabbing onto the ankle of a Level 3 Acolyte.

* Umbra's Hand!"

Sssii! The hand that was extremely corrosive dissolved part of the opponent's leg and the flesh and blood continuously fell down.

"Aaargh... someone save me!"

The enemy acolyte fell onto the ground, his wails pierced past the quiet forest, directly to the heavens.

"Kiddo! Your mother will save you!" Shaya mocked him. She waved her arm and a few silver light flew from her hand, directly piercing the head of the fallen acolyte.

* Bang! * The acolyte's head sliced open like a watermelon as the

brain and various juices sprayed on the floor.

3 people died directly from the first wave of attack from Leylin's party.

“Damn it! Monty!”

The two Level 3 Acolyte gritted their teeth and retreated. One of them withdrew a silver whistle from his robes and blew on it.

* Xiu Xiu Jiu Jiu! *

The piercing noise from the whistle sounded. From afar a growl from a beast was heard. It was oppressive, bloodthirsty and seemed to come from midair.

[Sound frequency recorded. Comparing to database, identified as a Moonlight Mayfly!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

“Moonlight Mayfly?” Leylin was surprised, “No wonder the other party chose this marsh as the battlefield!”

He immediately shouted, “Be careful! They have a contracted beast. It's the Moonlight Mayfly, hurry and leave the marsh!”

* Groar! *

The growl sounded and a massive black figure pressed down from the top of the trees, hovering in the midair above the marsh.

It was a giant creature with purple and black light emitting from the body. Also, it was the size of a horse, and two wings like that of a bat's grew from its sides. At the end of the wings, there were barbed talons. The mouth was extremely pointed and was filled with razor-sharp, white teeth. A pair of bright, yellow eyes seemed to burn like flames in the middle of the night.

“A.I. Chip, scan the creature!” Leylin ordered silently.

[Beep! Moonlight Mayfly. Strength: 5.2, Agility: 8.9, Vitality: 7.5, Spiritual Force: 3.8. Innate skills: 1.—Float. The Moonlight Mayfly large wings can allow them to maintain flight for a medium short distance. 2.—Fury of the Marsh. As the pet of the marshes, the Moonlight Mayfly can call upon the fury of the marsh. Uses the marsh attack on enemies. Might: 7 to 9 degrees!]

* Shiikkk! * As Leylin warned them, an unpleasant roar came from the Moonlight Mayfly floating in midair.

With the roar, the surface of the marsh which was originally serene suddenly surged with ripples.

The ripples grew larger, finally turning into a 12-metre tall wave, directing falling right upon Leylin and the rest.

Many impurities were contained within the murky waters, and it brought along branches and corpses of wild beasts. The wave actually took over a form that seemed to cover the skies.

“Well done, my precious!”

The acolyte, who blew loudly on the whistle, shouted, “Kill them for me!”

“Damn it! Even a little worm wants to kill us!”

Leylin and the others rushed out of the marsh area. As the might of the Fury of the Marsh could only be displayed inside the marsh, the attack stopped pursuing. However, Bosain remained behind.

At this moment, facing this huge wave, his expression was as if he just suffered a humiliation.

* Bang! * A large wave surged and attacked Bosain. However, on the surface of his body, a large silver metal shield automatically appeared in front of him.

The shield was a dozen centimetres thick. On the surface of the shield, there were mysterious and complicated runes and it looked to be extremely sturdy.

The Fury of the Marsh attack crashed on the shield, creating a

loud bang.

Chapter 107: Total Annihilation

Bang!

Under the crashing of the wave, the silver shield seemed to be a reef in the middle of the ocean, not moving the slightest.

After the Fury of the Marsh was over, Bosain was still unscathed behind the shield.

Seeing this, Leylin's pupil shrank.

“A defense type Magic Artifact!”

As the younger generation hailing from one of the big three families in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Bosain actually had a defense type Magic Artifact.

Leylin clearly understood the difficulty of dealing with it, as he too had a defense type Magic Artifact, the Fallen Star Pendant. Once the Fallen Star Pendant was activated, Leylin was invincible amongst acolytes.

As for the two opposing Level 3 Acolytes, they were obviously scared stiff by Bosain's actions. There was actually a moment when they stood still.

Especially the acolyte who signed a contract with the Moonlight Mayfly, he gripped the whistle tightly, disbelief written all over his pallid face.

After the Fury of the Marsh attack, the giant Moonlight Mayfly seemed to have been spent. It continued to hover in midair, yet did not attack again.

[The Moonlight Mayfly's attack can only be used once per day. Following which it has a cooldown period of 20 hours. Also, during this period, it would be in a weakened state!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

"A good chance!" Leylin's eyes flashed, and two potions, red and purple coloured, flew from his hands.

Bang! A red flame with purple smoke exploded on the body of the Moonlight Mayfly.

The huge explosion engulfed the Moonlight Mayfly. From the purple-red halo of the spell, the shrieks of the Moonlight Mayfly could be heard.

After the potion's effect had worn off, the Moonlight Mayfly in midair was in a miserable state. Both its claws were broken, with many holes on its wings. It seemed not to be able to float in the air any longer, covering the distance between itself and the ground rapidly, as if wanting to rest.

“You damned bastard! You actually dare....”

Looking at the Moonlight Mayfly approaching the ground, Bosain roared. The silver shield in front of him then emitted a white light.

The thick shield melted in the light, and silver liquid swirled around Bosain’s hands, turning into a silver greatsword.

“Hah!”

Bosain raised the greatsword with both hands and jumped up before slashing down!

Sou!

A silver flash of light chopped at the neck of the Moonlight Mayfly who was struggling, and a stream of blood appeared in its place.

The head of the Moonlight Mayfly was chopped off, spraying a large amount of black and purple ichor.

One slash to sever the head! The massive Moonlight Mayfly was actually decapitated with just one slash of Bosain’s sword.

“There is even a secondary effect! What a powerful Magic

Artifact! Of course, Bosain's strength is an important factor!"

Leylin gasped in amazement.

"Ah, no!" The moment the Moonlight Mayfly was decapitated, the acolyte let out a shrill cry.

Moreover, the moment the eyes of the severed Moonlight Mayfly's head dimmed, the acolyte's face turned white, and wrinkles started to appear all over his face.

"It seems like it was a life-bound contract he signed. No wonder, despite his average strength, he obtained the loyalty of the Moonlight Mayfly...."

Leylin sighed, "A pity that life-bound contracts are linked with the creature. Once the contracted creature dies, the host will not be able to escape the same fate!"

After the fire in the yellow eyes of the Moonlight Mayfly disappeared, the acolyte panted. At this moment, he was already a white-haired old man and then he fell to the ground, losing all signs of life.

"Ahhh!"

The final remaining acolyte shouted, immediately turned around and ran.

At the same time, a feather was thrown into the air by him. A black flash of light turned the feather into a nighthawk which flew in the air.

“A magic summon, hurry and stop it!” Jayden pointed and several vines immediately gave chase.

“Arrow spell!” Red-haired Shaya shouted, and from her hands, a few bright white-silver arrows shot towards the night hawk.

Jiu, Jiu! The night hawk whistled and flapped its wings, moving in a beautiful arc as it avoided the attack from the green vines.

After which, the nighthawk with its razor sharp wings smacked the few silver arrows away.

“It’s also a magic creature!”

Bosain’s voice weakened.

“We cannot let it relay the news, if not we’ll be in a dangerous situation!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, his wrist guard changing shape, turning into a black longbow.

“A.I. Chip! Calculate wind speed, humidity, and trajectory....”

Chi! The black arrow flashed across the sky like a lightning bolt, directly piercing the right wing of the night hawk.

With a wail, the nighthawk fell down.

“Nice one!” Bosain shouted in glee. His speed increased greatly, brandishing the silver greatsword.

Pu! The silver greatsword produced a white silk net, capturing the night hawk within.

“Go to hell!” The white silk net continued to tighten, finally turning into a ball of blood and feathers.

“We have finally gotten rid of it!” Jayden and Shaya heaved a sigh of relief.

“There is also this one!”

Chi La La! The thicket parted and Roth’s figure appeared in front of the party. Only now his appearance had taken a drastic change.

His right arm was blasted off, revealing many white tentacles. Half of his face was also strewn with green scales.

As for the tentacles on his right arm, it was holding onto the head of the last acolyte who escaped. The head wore a frightened

expression!

“A mutation experiment? And it is so thorough!”

Leylin and the other three were shocked.

Although Level 3 Acolytes can enhance their own body and transform it to a certain degree, an acolyte's Spiritual Force was still far beneath that of an official Magus. Many high-grade ingredients and knowledge weren't enough, so more often than not, forcefully enhancing the body would result in an irreversible damage.

However, Roth's current state showed that he was extremely sane.

Sou Sou! White tentacles continuously retracted back into his body. Very soon, Roth took on a half-naked appearance, returning back to his regular form.

Roth swung his right arm, tossing the acolyte's head onto the floor and smiled widely.

“Now, the inconveniences have all been disposed of!”

“Indeed!” Jayden looked at Roth, “We have already been friends for two years. Although I knew your mutation talent is rather high, I never expected that you have already contained the physical transformation aspect!”

Roth looked at the other four and shrugged his shoulders. “Acolytes must also have their trump cards, shouldn’t they?”

“Alright! Even though we annihilated the opponents, to prevent any unforeseen circumstances, we had better hasten the exploration and leave this place...”

Bosain suggested as he placed the Magic Artifact back in his robes.

“Indeed! The other party could have revealed their location to someone else. We have to hurry and look for the remnants in the Zither Moon Mountain Plains!”

Leylin also agreed.

“Alright, let us set off immediately!”

Jayden nodded his head and was about to lead the party away.

“Wait a minute, I even found this on his body!” Roth smiled and handed over a pale yellow scroll over to Jayden.

“This is...” Jayden opened it and his expression looked extremely unpleasant as if it belonged on a corpse.

“A.I. Chip, record!” The moment Jayden opened the map, Leylin

immediately ordered the A.I. Chip to record it.

From the geographical drawing, the map depicted the Zither Moon Mountain Plains. Moreover, among the signs of the dark forest, there was a thin red line which extended from the Zither Moon Town entrance to the depths of the mountain. It stopped at another marking which showed a cliff. Moreover, at the bottom of the cliff, there was the name ‘Dylan Gardens’

“Did the purpose of the other party coincide with our exploration?” Leylin asked suddenly.

“Indeed!” Jayden nodded vigorously, suddenly turning impatient. “Damn it, I don’t know how many leads this remnant owner created. Let’s hurry, I don’t wish to see a remnant that has already been scoured clean!”

Leylin inwardly saw the light. What the Great Magus Serholm left behind was an inheritance. He definitely wished for someone to discover and continue his legacy. Hence, he left behind many leads.

At this moment, Leylin could already confirm that the clues Jayden had belonged to the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm!

As there was a possibility that someone else might be there before them, the five of them proceeded with their journey, their hearts heavy and their complexions reflected their uneasiness.

However, they moved quickly, and in a few hours' time, they had already entered the depths of the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

At this moment, the mountain was extremely different from when they had first stepped into it.

The change in the vegetation here was to an extreme. If the Zither Moon Mountain Plains border had normal plants growing, right now, what they saw in front of them were some relatively bizarre species of plants.

The most common plants were a species of big shrubs that were white in colour and their leaves had a strange spiral form.

Every time a gust of wind blew, the sea of shrubs would move with the wind, producing a sound similar to playing the piano keys.

Ding Ding Dong Dong! The piano-like sounds was extremely chaotic. Leylin became aroused, feeling a need to recklessly charge forth!

“Careful! This is the Piano Key Bush. The noise it makes can attract regular humans. Even an acolyte would be somewhat affected!”

Leylin warned, “Earlier, the missing people from the Zither Moon Town could very well have been attracted to these sounds, entering an illusion and dying in heat....”

After which, Leylin withdrew a few potions from his bag and distributed it to Jayden and the rest.

“This is a tranquilizing potion that I have brewed, it can resist such effects!”

Jayden, Roth, and Shaya looked at the test-tube in their hands and drank its contents after tasting a little of it.

As for Bosain, he shook his head to refuse, directly returning the potion to Leylin.

“I don’t need it!”

Leylin shrugged his shoulders and led the way at the front.

On the later parts of the exploration, there were traps with poisonous gases and ambushes. This was the reason a Potioneering acolyte was needed — to counteract them.

This was also the reason why Jayden asked Leylin to come.

Chapter 108: The Entrance

After which, Leylin and the rest met several waves of miasma and hordes of poisonous insects.

Under the aid of the potions Leylin provided, the party got through these danger zones with ease.

After Leylin displayed a few methods of using the potions to dispel the poisonous insects and miasma, Jayden and the rest were convinced of Leylin's talent.

Even Bosain from the Lilytell Family would occasionally cast surprised glances at Leylin.

Obviously, he had heard of Leylin's talent in Potioneering before, but Leylin's talent had exceeded his expectations.

The party trekked over land and water, finally arriving at the overhanging cliff depicted on the map two days later.

“So beautiful!”

Shaya gasped. Even Leylin and the others showed signs of indulgence.

On the edge of the cliff, there were bright yellow flowers growing

on the levelled ground. In the heart of the flower, it was bright red. When it bloomed it had the size of two regular humans' fists put together.

The whole mountaintop was filled with this strange flower, and a heavy aroma permeated the area.

“Leylin, what is it?” Jayden asked.

The Zither Moon Mountain Plains was riddled with dangers, and various strange plants had appeared. More often than not, the more beautiful a plant was the more dangerous it was. Especially when it was close to their destination!

As the Potioneering acolyte, Leylin already dealt with 3 similar flowers traps.

“No problem!” Leylin picked up a stalk of the flower.

“A.I. Chip, compare to database!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, scanning outer appearance and scent. Comparison in progress...]

[Result is found in the database. Determined as a Beta Daisy!] The A.I. Chip's voice loyally intoned.

“Beta Daisy?” Leylin's brow's furrowed. “This is a common plant

in the South Coast. Normally they are grown on plains. It represents nostalgia and respect...”

“This flower does indeed seem like the Beta Daisy. There should be someone who planted this here on purpose!” Bosain also gave a definite reply.

“Is it the magician who left behind the inheritance?” Roth who stood behind spoke, his voice gruff.

“It’s possible, but I can’t confirm it!”

Jayden opened the damaged map, “From the map, the remnants should be located at the bottom of this cliff!”

Leylin nodded his head, back when he scanned the map, the name ‘Dylan Gardens’ appeared beneath the cliff. Moreover, there was mentioned a huge area of Beta Daisy located on the cliff above it, so there was an 80-90 percent chance that it was correct.

“What are we waiting for?” The excitement was seen on Shaya’s face.

To acolytes, if there were able to find remnants of an official Magus and obtain the inheritance, it was often the start of another legend.

The five of them began to pant raggedly, even Bosain was not excluded.

The cliff was extremely high, and there were granite rocks on the razor sharp steep walls. For a regular human, climbing to the bottom was an impossible task.

However, for these five Level 3 Acolytes, this itsy-bitsy challenge could not stop them at all.

Roth immediately transformed into the tentacle handed creature and climbed. As for Leylin and the others, they added a Floating Feather spell. This spell allowed them to lighten their weight and they floated right to the bottom.

Bang!

The Floating Feather spell was removed and Leylin's feet touched the ground.

"This is... " Leylin was rather taken aback as he sized up the surroundings. It was littered with stones in the form of double edged blades.

The countless stone swords were placed together, covering at least half of the bottom area of the cliff.

On the sharp blades, there were countless corpses. Leylin even discovered some corpses which looked like humans.

“It seems that these were living creatures which fell from the cliff!” Leylin sighed and suddenly realised that something was amiss, “How could there be regular humans here. Could it be some acolytes who had obtained leads previously?”

“Be careful, the floor is littered with blades!” Upon seeing Jayden and the others landing, Leylin hurriedly warned.

“Damn it!” Jayden’s face darkened. His arm had grazed over one of the sharp blades when landing, revealing an abrasion that was at least 12cm long.

“These pointed edges have been made razor-sharp to last for eternity. In addition, there also some magic spells imbued in them! If this were not so, it would not have been possible to breakthrough my defense and cause a scratch on my skin!”

“Indeed!” Leylin touched the grey-white blade and felt the faint energy waves pulsing from it.

“Only an official Magus could perform the spell on such a scale, adding the effect on all these rocks in this area!”

“So then, where is the remnant?”

Sou Sou! Countless grey-white tentacles extended to the bottom of the cliff, bringing Roth with it.

“I have used my spell to detect earlier, there are only rocks and

mud below here, no traces of remnants whatsoever....” Bosain held onto a green eyeball and spoke rather dejectedly.

“Let us search the area and see if there are any clues. 6 hours later, we’ll gather at the top of the cliff again!” Impatience surfaced on Jayden’s face as he spoke.

This exploration was suggested by him, so the worst disappointment is ending with no results.

Moreover, with some clues but not being able to discover the entrance still, this impatience, together with the fear of being hunted down by an official Magus had tortured this little boy. From what Leylin saw, Jayden was on the verge of a mental breakdown.

“Freedom to seek?” After hearing Jayden’s suggestion, the other 4 quietened down and nodded their heads in agreement.

To them, after arriving at the destination, Jayden was of little use to them. Moreover, being able to find the remnant and obtain the loot before the other party members were definitely much better than discovering it together. More benefits could be obtained that way.

The five of them had confidence in their own methods. Hence, no one suggested forming a team of sorts.

The few of them chose to walk downwards and left the area

where they landed on.

“A.I. Chip, scan the geographical outlay and project a map from it!” Leylin commanded the A.I. Chip after walking for a moment before stopping.

[Mission establishing, scanning the geography of the region...]

The A.I. Chip loyally carried out Leylin’s orders. Very soon, a pale blue 3-D image was projected in front of Leylin’s eyes.

On this map which could only be seen by him, it clearly depicted the terrain of the location nearby. It was so detailed that even a blade of grass was not left out.

According to the A.I. Chip’s detection, under the cliff, there were layers of granite. Here were no signs of magician activities.

Moreover, in the surroundings, there weren’t any situation of experiment labs that was detected.

“There isn’t any?” Leylin’s brow’s furrowed.

“Perhaps, the other party had laid out such a strong concealment that even the A.I. Chip was unable to detect!”

Leylin pondered as he looked at the surroundings again with his physical eye.

6 hours later, the sky gradually turned dark. There were a few tents pitched on the top of the cliff. In front of the tent, there was a bonfire, where a wild vegetable soup aroma rose from the boiling pot.

It was rather unfortunate, however, that the five surrounding the bonfire did not have any appetite.

“Everyone has returned, speak of your findings!” Jayden looked at the circle and spoke first.

“There isn’t any! Apart from those darned inverted rock blades, there isn’t anything else....” Roth then spoke, “I say, could it be that you are leading us on the wrong path?”

“What did you say?” Jayden stood up abruptly, the badge pinned on his chest emitting a green glow.

“Alright! Do we want to cause internal strife even before finding the treasure?” Bosain emitted a huge energy wave, directly between Jayden and Roth.

“I believe Jayden, if not he could have come here on his own!” Leylin added.

Why he said that was because he also held a copy of the Sage Gotham Hut party’s map. He knew that Jayden had been leading them right to the destination.

After hearing Leylin and Bosain mediating, Jayden and Roth glared at each other and sat back down.

“I have even searched the bottom level and it was all solid ground. There isn’t any underground construction or anything of that sort!” Shaya smiled wryly.

“An official Magus’ remnant could not be found that easily in the first place. If not it would have long since been looted!”

Leylin added and immediately asked Jayden, “Do you have any other clues?”

After hearing Leylin’s words, the other 3 diverted their glances at Jayden.

Jayden kept his silence for a while before speaking, “The clue that I obtained was the map to come here. On the map, there were several ancient verses, it seemed to be a poem of sorts...”

“Let me see it!” Leylin and Bosain spoke together in unison.

“I’ll show it to all of you then!” Jayden smiled and opened the map in his hands.

Leylin scrutinised the map on Jayden. There was no difference with the A.I. Chip’s copy at all, even the route was the same,

leading to this cliff.

However, Jayden's copy of the map was much older. On the upper right corner, there were several blurry characters. The words were writhing like a snake.

"This is Curagerian language, I have seen it before on a manual. It seemed to speak of 'carry...and people with respect, will be able to...garden....'" Bosain eyes flashed as he tried his best to translate it.

"Only those who carry courage and respect will be able to see the Dylan Gardens!" Leylin translated the Curagerian language immediately, "There is only this one line on the map!"

Bosain was clearly startled, "Such an obscure knowledge...you actually..."

"It's because I like to hang around in the library!" Leylin smiled.

"The remnant's name seemed to be Dylan Gardens. However, for courage and respect, what does it mean?"

Shaya scratched her head in puzzlement.

"I always thought courage referred to the courage to trespass through the Zither Moon Mountain Plains. It doesn't seem to be the case now!" Jayden smiled wryly.

“The Zither Moon Mountain Plains is somewhat dangerous to regular humans. However to a Level 2 Acolyte, it doesn’t pose much danger at all...” Bosain looked at Leylin impassively, before speaking.

Chapter 109: A Way To Enter

The group discussed till late into the night, but no conclusions were arrived at.

After which, they assigned the sentry for the night watch, and the individuals returned to the tent to rest and meditate.

Leylin lay on a simple bed laid with the fur of a white wolf, anxiety stirring in his heart.

To him, this inheritance that no one knew about was now revealed to the rest. Furthermore, using the A.I. Chip's scanning abilities did not yield him any results. This made him feel rather irritated.

Even the meditation that he did daily had to be postponed.

“Maybe I should not put all my hopes in here. The South Coast is extremely vast. Every dozens of years there would be an acolyte who stumbled upon an inheritance and obtain resources to advance into an official Magus. There are many chances...”

Leylin comforted himself, and then laughed in spite of himself.

Originally, he had considered the Great Magus Serholm's inheritance as his own belonging, which had led him to be obsessed with it. Even a magician's most basic intellect was

affected by it.

And Jayden and the others were also in the same situation.

“How irritable, I ignored the dangers!” Leylin’s expression suddenly turned tranquil.

“The acolytes of the Sage Gotham Hut have all been killed by us. This will surely cause the other side to keep an eye on us and cause them to send some powerful acolytes or even official Magi to investigate...”

“Based on the location of the Sage Gotham Hut, I still have around 10 days’ time till the information reaches them...”

“8 days! If within 8 days I still haven’t discovered any clues here, I must leave.” Leylin’s eyes showed his resolve.

Compared with the Great Magus Serholm’s inheritance, Leylin valued his own life even more.

.....

After having decided thus, Leylin felt as if a load had been taken off of him, and even his Spiritual Force felt like it was cleansed and thus he entered into the state of mediation.

Early morning, a skylark’s sharp cry echoed above their camp.

Leylin greeted Shaya, “Morning!”

“Morning!” said Shaya, two dark circles around her eyes. It appeared as if she hadn’t slept a wink last night. A few blood vessels were distinctly visible within her eyes. The gaze that she returned Leylin was inconceivable.

“I wonder...how is it that you can be so...relaxed?” After enduring for some time, Shaya at last enquired.

“This is an official Magus’ inheritance that we are talking about—there is a chance to even get some information and resources which would help us advance...”

“But we still haven’t found it, isn’t that right?”

Leylin, facing the rising sun, stretched his muscles satisfactorily.

“As long as something is not yours, you must not obsess over it too much. Otherwise, your heart will only suffer.”

“You are very odd indeed!” Shaya rubbed her hand across her forehead, as she continued, “However, Magi and acolytes are all queer people, so you can be considered as normal!”

“That may be so!” Leylin nodded, as he thought that if these

people came to know that the remnants were left behind by the Great Magus Serholm, then the situation could worsen.

But, he certainly would not tell them about this bit of information.

The 5 people walked away from the tents and gathered to eat their breakfast—which was a roasted fowl. After that, they all gathered together to discuss on how to proceed.

“Alright! Today will again be another day of solo explorations! Try your best to find the remnants!” said Jayden. After seeing that the discussion went on for ages with no result, he had no other option but to say this.

This was also the most appropriate action for the current situation.

Although it is possible that any acolyte could find the entrance first, as long as it is opened, Jayden and the rest would also be able to find that open entrance from its energy waves. At the very most, they would just give the people who discovered the entrance a larger portion of the reward.

“What are you doing?”

After everyone had scattered in different directions, Jayden, upon seeing that Leylin still stood hesitating at the top of the cliff and was bowing to appreciate the Beta Daisy, he couldn't help but

ask.

“It is as you see. I am appreciating the flowers,” said Leylin, with a hint of a smile on his mouth.

“At such a moment?” Jayden’s eyes turned red; he made as if to go and reprimand Leylin.

“Be calm! You must not get irritated!” Leylin made a gesture to make him halt.

“Yesterday we all looked for clues at the cliff’s bottom, but we haven’t discovered this secret hidden among the ocean of flowers!”

“Secret? You mean, you found it?” Jayden appeared ecstatic.

“What? Leylin found it?” Sou! Sou! Sou! 3 shadows appeared directly next to Jayden and Leylin.

It was the other 3 acolytes who had not strayed too far.

“En!” In front of his party’s eyes, Leylin slowly nodded his head.

“One of you who can use any floating spell, fly up to midair and have a look!” Leylin spoke.

“I’ll do it!” Bosain immediately withdrew a silver metal ball. On

the metal ball, there were the energy waves of a Magic Artifact.

After that, Bosain twirled the metal ball, which then melted to become a liquid. This liquid stuck to his back and formed two huge, pretty and dazzling silver wings.

“It is a magic artifact that can change form as needed!” praised Leylin.

This artifact probably could reach the standard of a medium-grade Magic Artifact, guessed Leylin. The synthesizer had lowered the might of it for an acolyte to wield its power.

Only large-scale families with a long history would be able to enjoy such extravagant methods.

Chi La! A huge translucent silver wing flapped, bringing the dust off the ground. With this strength, Bosain immediately flew into midair.

“How is it? Do you see anything?” Jayden shouted below.

“Flowers...The arrangement of the Beta Daisy....”

A gust of wind flew past and Bosain flew down onto the ground, retracting his wings back in his body.

“This patch of Beta Daisy was planted on purpose. They have

formed a character!”

Bosain explained to the rest.

“What character?” Shaya and Roth asked.

“It is a Curagerian letter, and the meaning means ‘jump’!” Leylin said.

“Jump? Could it be that we have to jump directly off the cliff?” Jayden guessed. Acolytes were not silly people, their judgment was clouded by the benefits in front of them previously.

“Haven’t we already jumped once yesterday?”

Roth scratched his head, “Nothing was discovered, only those damned rocks below the cliff!”

“No! You climbed down. As for us, we used the Floating Feather spell to get down!” Bosain interrupted.

“I understand now, the remnant is located in a secret plane. As for the way to enter, it is to jump directly down from the cliff without using any spells!”

“Jump down directly? Are you crazy?” Shaya twisted her beautiful red hair, “Such a tall cliff with so many rock blades at the bottom. If we don’t use any magic spells for defence, with our

physical bodies, even Roth would fall to his death!”

“So, we need some experiment specimen!”

Jayden said, “Go find some animals, better yet some humans!”

“That’s possible! But don’t harbour too much hope!” Roth pulled out a bunch of tentacles from his bag and hurriedly left.

“We should also search in the surroundings, if we still can’t find any, then let’s return to the town!” Jayden revealed a smile for the first time...

“Ahhhhh....”

Frightened screams could be heard from the cliff. Moreover, due to the high pressure from the wind, the voices were altered.

Bang!

A black dot fell from the top of the cliff, growing larger, finally, a human figure appeared.

It was a person from the town who wore hunter gear. His face contorted and let out a hell-raising scream, free-falling from the top of the cliff.

Sou!

The hunter smashed directly onto a rock blade and the huge force of impact directly severed his body in two.

The corpse which was in two fell on the ground creating a huge pit. The bones and flesh were mixed together, the original appearance could not be recognised at all.

Beside these two pits, there was a smaller pit.

It had the same gory scene, only that the skull belonged to an animal similar to a deer.

“How is it?”

At the bottom of the cliff, Roth crossed his arms and inspected. Shaya too stood beside him. Moreover, in front of him, there was a semicircle object which glowed in green. From that object, Jayden’s voice could be heard.

“Nothing new! It’s just more meat paste, the result is similar to the deer from before!” Roth sneered, “It seems that our plan has failed...”

On top of the cliff, Leylin and the other two crowded around. Upon listening to the voice from the other half of the green semicircle object, their faces disappointed.

“From the start, an animal, till the last, a human. It seems like there are some other conditions that need to be met!”

Leylin was the first to recover from his low spirits.

“Let us think carefully, we are running out of specimens to test!” Bosain revealed a sardonic smile, pointing at the empty ground nearby.

On the empty ground, there were a few Zither Moon Town civilians who looked aghast at Leylin and the others. If not for the fact that their mouths were stuffed, they would most likely be cursing or begging for mercy right now.

Ever since Jayden suggested finding substitutes, the five of them had immediately split up and done their job.

Bosain was the most ruthless, it seemed like he went back to the town to kidnap a few citizens back here.

For peak magician families from where he came from, the secular regular humans were like wild grass. No matter how many were cut off, more would sprout in the future. Being able to die for his cause was their glory!

Although Leylin did not agree with this, but going against Bosain for a few mere strangers was not worth it.

Moreover, using human specimens had a smaller margin for error, much more than a deer. It was also in accordance with Leylin's interests!

At the same time, he was extremely shocked at Bosain's speed.

“Jumping down would represent courage! According to the map, there must also be ‘respect!’” Leylin spoke of his own conjecture.

“Then what is ‘respect’?” Bosain asked.

“In ancient times, when people visit their elders, they would bring a Beta Daisy to show their respect. This custom has lasted till today's times, and many places in the South Coast has retained such traditions!”

Leylin smiled and said.

Chapter 110: Black Horrrall Snake

“Indeed! The Poolfield Kingdom does have such traditions!” Bosain’s eyes gleamed.

“Let’s try again!”

He went to one of the captives directly. It was a blue-haired kid which had not matured yet. “Be honoured kiddo! Being able to make contributions in front of mighty magicians!”

Bosain smirked, and immediately cut the ropes that were tying the boy.

“Put this on well, better yet put it at the place 30 centimetres below your collar!” Leylin immediately plucked a Beta Daisy flower and inserted it into the boy’s collars.

“All preparatory work is work! Roth and Shaya, be careful!” Jayden roared into the receiver.

“Three, two, and one! Release!”

Bosain grabbed onto the boy’s hair with an arm and walked towards the edge of the cliff. Looking at the boy who was flailing, he smirked and let go of his hand.

“Ahhhhhhhhh!”

The little boy spit off the thing stuffed in his mouth and let off a horrified scream!

After which, both his hands waved wildly as if a drowned person trying to hold onto the last rice straw.

“I hope it’s a success this time!” On the cliff, Leylin muttered as he stood with the other two watched the screaming boy turn into a dot.

Suddenly, Leylin and the rest discovered an energy wave.

“This feeling! It won’t be mistaken! It’s the energy waves formed when a secret plane opens, the same as the bloodbath from before!” Leylin’s lips curled up.

“Sha Sha...” Noises came from the receiver.

“He disappeared! I see the person who was falling in midair engulfed by a light, completely disappearing!” Shaya’s voice could be heard with a trace of excitement in it.

“Let us go immediately!” Roth’s voice, too, sounded from the receiver.

Moments later, the five gathered at the cliff as they gasped in

amazement at the methods of ancient Magi.

“Courage and respect! Who would have thought of that?”

Shaya spoke in a wondrous tone, “With no defense spells and jumping off the cliff, where many rock blades have been imbued with eternal sharpness. Even an official Magus would not dare try it...”

“Moreover, one has to carry a Beta Daisy. If not, the secret plane wouldn’t be opened...”

Jayden smiled, “Leylin, nice one!”

At this moment, even Bosain revealed an approving smile. Shaya even clapped for him at the side.

“Oh! All of this is due to everyone’s efforts!” Leylin lowered his head slightly, revealing a humble yet proud smile.

“The secret plane has already been discovered, what are we waiting for?” Roth immediately plucked a Beta Daisy and placed it on his body.

“There are them too!” Bosain pointed at the frightened captives.

“I’ll end it!” Jayden stretched both his hands and the vines continue to extend.

“Wait!” Leylin spoke suddenly, restricting Jayden’s movement.

“What is it, could it be that you want to beg for them?” Bosain looked at Leylin in amusement.

“No! Only that, the secret plane might contain many other mechanisms like this, who knows if there are other uses for them!”

Leylin gave a viable reason.

“Moreover!” Leylin reached for a captive, “Granite Bind!”

Grey granite immediately rose from the ground, turning into fetters and handcuffs, tying the captives together once more.

“Regular humans will not be able to escape from a magic spell. This way, we wouldn’t be afraid of them running away!”

“Very well! If we use too much time inside the secret plane, they will die of starvation. Leylin, you are indeed a magician!”

Bosain smiled and directly held a Beta Daisy in his hands, “Let’s go! Are we still going to wait?”

“Jump!” The five acolytes each carried a Beta Daisy and jumped from the cliff.

Bang!

During the high-speed drop, Leylin's skin was almost sunken from the high pressure.

His eyes slightly reddened, and he felt as if the blood in his whole body was about to shoot out.

“Is this the feeling of jumping off a building?” Leylin harboured some nonsensical thoughts.

When the five of them fell halfway, a circle of light shone on the precipice.

The light turned into a circle and the air writhed, revealing the scene of another dimension.

“The entrance of the secret plane!” Bosain shouted.

Following which, the eyes of the members gleamed, and a strong weightlessness feeling overcame them.

After the earth spinning feeling, Leylin and the rest came to a dark cave.

“Such a large place, it should be a subterranean area! Only that we don't know where it is, since the underground of the bottom of

the cliff was already searched with spells many times. It's impossible to be there!"

Leylin got up slowly.

"Where's the boy?" Shaya tidied the hair that covered her forehead and suddenly cried, "The boy from earlier has disappeared!"

"It's not that!" Roth lowered his head and pointed to the ground. There was a puddle a blood and the broken pieces of clothes of the boy.

"As expected, danger lurks in the secret plane along with the remnants!"

After seeing this scene, Leylin's eyes flashed.

Earlier when he disclosed the information to enter, he could have kept it to himself and wait until the others have returned to the academy before returning on his own.

However, he still chose to tell the others.

This was definitely not because he had had a change of character.

But fear! Fear of the danger inside the secret plane!

The Great Magus Serholm was a legendary Magus and had at least rose to Rank 4.

The inheritance that such a person would leave behind, Leylin felt that there would definitely be many mechanisms to test the aptitude of the seekers.

No matter what, Leylin was still only a Level 3 Acolyte, not even an official Magus! This place, for him, was too dangerous!

As for Bosain who was amongst Jayden's party, he was an existence not weaker to Leylin. The other three too had their various ways of surviving.

Leylin was extremely clear on his strength. Just he alone would be unable to break through every mechanism in the secret plane to obtain the inheritance. As for deceiving Jayden and the rest and completely reform a team with only Level 3 Acolytes, that was an impossible task to do.

Furthermore, even if it was a team he organised, at the very end when they discovered the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm, Leylin was certain that an internal strife would occur!

For acolytes, the Great Magus Serholm was a myth amongst legends! His inheritance has a deadly allure to any acolyte!

Anyway, falling out was inevitable, so it did not matter who he had to fall out with.

Leylin asked himself if he were to compare the trump cards, he was the one with the most. The final one laughing would definitely be him!

“It seems like the boy had been attacked by some dangerous creature!”

Jayden took out his Magic Artifact, a green badge, and held it in his hand.

The surroundings were extremely dim and the visibility was poor. Leylin and the others could not see very far.

The five of them huddled together to face any outside attack.

“Look at this!” Roth squatted down and pointed at a semicircle track.

Leylin looked at the direction he pointed at, and the semicircle track was extremely deep, extending to the depths far away. Moreover, these tracks appeared the most around the boy's remains.

“It's a snake's trail!” Leylin felt a scale the size of a palm from the tracks and blurted out.

“A snake's track? Which means, there is a dangerous snake

creature concealed in the area!”

Roth’s right-hand muscle bulged and his sleeves exploded.

Hua La La! White tentacles continuously extended from it, creating a defense by shielding his surroundings.

Sssii! Sssii! !

The spitting of a snake’s tongue continuously sounded.

“It seems like the Great Magus Serholm had an affection for snake type creatures!” Leylin thought of the Huge Mankestre Snake back in the previous remnant experiment lab and started to link the two sightings together.

“But, what could this all mean?”

Regarding the records of the Great Magus Serholm, they only appeared in poems and travel notes.

Leylin had not yet discovered any journals that covered the happenings of the Great Magus Serholm in detail. According to his conjecture, this information should only be available at the official Magus level.

“It seems like it’s a large one!” Bosain licked his lips. The silver metal covered him fully, turning into a full body armour.

Bang!

A gigantic long black figure charged towards the acolytes under the concealment of the darkness.

“Chi Chi!” Countless tentacles reached out, wrapping on the figure of the black figure.

Roth guffawed, “I caught you!”

“Illuminating Spell!” Shaya held a bright light ball in her hands and tossed it in the air.

The light ball exploded in midair, and shone down, illuminating the cave like a sun.

Leylin squinted his eyes and sized up the creature that Roth had bound.

A giant snake, more than a dozen metres long, and was black in colour all over. It was filled with the rhombus-shaped scales that Leylin had noticed earlier. On its back, there was a long red line, stretching from the head to its tail.

On the middle of the snake’s head, there was a small stubby horn, emitting immense energy waves from it.

Under the horn was a pair of triangular shaped pupils. Its bright yellow eyes looked like amber, as it stared at Leylin and the rest.

At this moment, the giant snake seemed to be held down by a ball of tentacles wrapped around it, rooted to the spot.

Compared with the snake, Roth seemed like a midget. The scene was somewhat comical.

“A.I. Chip! Scan the creature!” Leylin ordered.

[Similarity to the Black Horrall Snake: 98.7%! Neborake Mamba: 75%! Mankestre Snake: 34.6%!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Black Horrall Snake? Bring out its data!” Leylin’s brow’s furrowed.

[Black Horrall Snake, an extremely dangerous being. It contains a trace of bloodline of the ancient creature—Kemoyin Serpent, which is known to contain tremendous might and an astonishing life force!]

[Source of information: Ancient Creatures Illustrated Handbook, Catalog of Dangerous Creatures.]

Chapter 111: Contract Scroll

“Scan the stats of the Black Horrall Snake in front of me!”

Leylin ordered once again.

[Beep! Target stats: Strength: 18, Agility: 15, Vitality: 20, Spiritual Force: 22.

Abilities – 1. Scales Defence: The Black Horrall Snake rhombus scales has a defensive force field encircling it at all times. Immune to physical and magical attacks under 5 degrees. Moreover, it has a huge negation towards attack of 5 degrees and more. 2. Shadow Stealth: Inheriting the Kemoyin Serpent’s shadow powers allows the Black Horrall Snake to enter into a stealth state anytime, withdrawing all signs of energy waves. 3. Lightning blaze: Emits a lightning flame from the horn. Estimated degree of attack: 12 to 15 degrees. Status: Extremely weak!]

“Stats like this...”

Leylin’s eyes widened, “It has long since surpassed the boundaries of a Level 3 Acolyte, and is most likely close to that of an official Magus?”

There were no records of the stats of official Magus in the A.I. Chip, so Leylin could only guess.

“Roth, careful! This is a Black Horrall Snake! Its might is extremely higher, much higher than your imagination!”

“Hisssssss!”

Before Leylin had finished warning him, the Black Horrall Snake let out an ear-piercing hiss.

The massive body of the Black Horrall Snake began to writhe and the tail was sent flailing. The cave seemed to shake.

Pa Pa! The milky white tentacles broke constantly, and from its wounds, there was white dense pus.

The triangular pupils of the Black Horrall Snake seemed to reveal a glint of ridicule. Following which, it turned back into the eyes of a beast and bit on Roth who had fallen to the ground.

“Save him!”

Shaya and Jayden roared, and a few green vines and silver flying knives was sent flying towards the Black Horrall Snake’s body.

Bang! The flying knives and vines hit on the scales of the Black Horrall Snake, and sparks were created.

The Black Horrall Snake did not budge at all and opened its bloody mouth, directly chomping on Roth, swallowing him with a

gulp.

“Oh, no!”

On the neck of the giant snake, there was a bulge as if someone was attacking within.

Very soon, the bulge entered the stomach of the snake and the struggle within grew smaller and smaller, finally turning still.

The whole process took only a few seconds, so fast that Leylin and the others did not have time to rescue him.

“Black Horrall Snake?”

Bosain who was on the side recovered from the shock, “Isn’t that an existence that, when matured, could deal with a Rank 3 Magus? Why has it appeared here?”

“It could go against a Rank 3 Magus?”

Jayden and the others jumped in shock! Rank 3 Magus! That is the cultivation of the leader in the Lighthouse of the Night, a person who could suppress the 3 academies!

“If it’s a Rank 3 Magus, we would have long been dead, not even a speck left. Could it be that this Black Horrall Snake has not matured yet?” Leylin’s thoughts spun rapidly.

“No! It’s not correct! This is a matured Black Horrall Snake. However, due to the duration that it has been sealed for and not being able to eat, it has already regressed from a Rank 3 Magus into an elementary Rank 1 Magus! Furthermore, it was awakened by the human boy earlier...”

According to the indication from the A.I. Chip, Leylin guessed the truth.

This Black Horrall Snake could be the byproduct of the Great Magus Serholm before, and was left here according to his wishes.

There was most likely no food in this secret plane, hence, the Black Horrall Snake could only hibernate to reduce the consumption needed for its body.

However, hundreds and thousands of years have passed. Even if the Black Horrall Snake tried to conserve its strength, it could not have reversed the decomposition effect. From originally a creature which could go against a Rank 3 Magus, it had now regressed to the standard of a Rank 1 Magus.

After swallowing Roth, Black Horrall Snake’s pupils showed a hint of satisfaction, before sizing up Leylin and the others.

“It is still a young Black Horrall Snake, not even an official Magus. We still have a chance!”

Leylin was afraid that Jayden and the rest would have been dismayed and lost their fighting spirit after hearing declare it as a 'Rank 3 Magus', hence, he quickly shouted to boost their confidence.

Leylin had the A.I. Chip and was able to tell the truth behind the regression of the snake. Such a thing had to be kept mum. In the short period of time Jayden and the rest wouldn't be able to discover it, so Leylin just simply told a lie in its place.

"A fledgling?" Bosain's eyes flashed. "Indeed! This Black Horrall Snake is too weak, even weaker than a Rank 1 Magus. It is definitely in its pre-adolescent phase!"

"This is a creature which could fight against Rank 3 Magi in the future when it grows up! If I were to sign a contract with it..."

Bosain muttered and his armour immediately flashed. A metal liquid was held in his right hand, turning into a silver white sword.

"Come! The brutal Black Horrall Snake of the legends! Let me, Bosain, be your owner!"

Bosain eyes were frenzied and he directly charged forward.

Bang! The thin silver sword slashed at the Black Horrall Snake's scales, creating a long gash. A few palm sized scales too dropped out.

“Indeed, it if were a matured Black Horrall Snake, I would have no chances at all to break its defensive forcefield!”

Bosain hollered, “This is mine! This Black Horrall Snake must definitely belong to me!”

“Hisssssssss!” The Black Horrall Snake hissed angrily and flung its tail.

Bang! As if it were a black lightning, the long tail viciously struck Bosain.

Bosain seemed to fly out like a cannonball, creating a large hole in the walls of the cave.

Hua La La! Mud and rocks fell down, revealing Bosain who was wearing his shining white armour.

“Leylin, Jayden, and Shaya, help me to restrain it. Not only can you get the friendship of the Lilytell Family, I am also willing to give up all of the rewards obtained during this exploration!”

Bosain shook his head and finally recovered from the dizziness, seeking help from Leylin and the others.

“No matter what, let us restrain this Black Horrall Snake first. If not, we won’t have a chance to obtain anything!”

Jayden spoke as he channeled a large amount of Spiritual Force and Magic Power into the green badge.

Ripples of jade green colour continuously came from the badge.

Peng! Countless jade green vines seemed to fill the cave as it tried to entangle the Black Horrall Snake.

“Cloud of Afterlife!”

Leylin too used his spell that he was proud of. A large murky green cloud immediately engulfed the Black Horrall Snake within, the corrosive sounds constantly emitting from within the mist.

“Comb of Vengeful Spirit!” Shaya too took out her prized Magic Artifact.

It had the appearance of a rather old wooden comb. Shaya immediately used it to comb her fire red beautiful hair.

Sssii!! The fire red hair grew rapidly. In the blink of an eye, there was already a layer of hair on the ground. After which, the ground of the whole cave was dyed red.

“It is actually a type of binding type Magic Artifact. Combined with Jayden’s green badge, it may really even restrain this Black Horrall Snake!”

An expectant look flashed across Leylin's eyes

After the dark green Cloud of Afterlife had dissipated, it revealed the massive Black Horrall Snake's figure within.

The scales were still gleaming, as usual, only that in that large gash that Bosain had left on its body, the surrounding flesh had been corroded to a purple black state.

The huge snake's eyes seemed dispirited. Looking at it, it was evident that Leylin's attack had some effect on it.

"All together!" Jayden nodded his head towards Shaya. Countless green vines from midair wrapped around the Black Horrall Snake, even around its head.

At the same time, the innumerable fire red hair on the ground was like steel net. Very soon it wrapped itself like a net, trapping the Black Horrall Snake within.

Bang!

The green vines and red hair continuously tightened, leaving circles after circles of red and green imprints on the Black Horrall Snake's body.

The huge snake lost its balance and fell to the ground, bringing up dust and rock shards.

“Nice one!” Bosain praised them. His body in midair left several white afterimages.

After a few jumps, he came to the top of the Black Horrall Snake’s head.

“Little baby, you’re mine now!”

A smug and zealous expression filled Bosain’s face. He immediately withdrew a scroll which emitted immense energy waves, directly at the Black Horrall Snake’s eyes.

“This is... A sealing contract within a scroll!”

From the A.I. Chip’s detection, it was a power magical object. On it, a contract formation was sealed within. It had to cost at least tens of thousands of Magic Crystals. Moreover, one may not be able to buy it even with money!

This price has long since surpassed the price of many magical creatures for magicians.

From this, one could see that only those large families which had been around for many years could possess many great items.

Leylin looked at Bosain who was opening the scroll and his lips curled up.

“A pity that it is such a powerful contract scroll. If it were used against a youngling of a powerful creature, there could still be a chance of success. However, this Black Horrall Snake’s Spiritual Force is not in such a lowered state....”

Bosain who was without the A.I. Chip would naturally not think of this.

At this moment, his face carried a fevered gaze. Coupled with his trembling hands, he chanted an incantation and ripped open the magical scroll.

Bang!

An extremely radiant white light rose in front of Bosain and the black snake.

The white continuously circulated, finally forming a strange magic formation. On it was laced with mysterious runes and magic characters.

“An advanced contract spell formation! A.I. Chip, record!” Leylin immediately gave the order to the A.I. Chip.

“Come! Become my contractual partner!”

Bosain muttered. From the formation a green light appeared,

directly entering the forehead of Bosain.

As for the other flash of green light, it was sent towards the Black Horrall Snake, moreover directly imprinting itself on the large skull of the Black Horrall Snake.

As if knowing that once it was bound to the contract and lose its freedom forever, the black snake thrashed continuously, resisting the entry of the green light.

“Hurry! Faster!”

Cold sweat the size of beans trickled down Bosain’s face, staring intently at the skull of the Black Horrall Snake.

“My dream, my life, when I obtain this Black Horrall Snake...”

Just when the green light had completely entered the Black Horrall Snake’s head, a strange sight occurred!

Chapter 112: Shadow Stealth

The eyes of the Black Horrall Snake revealed a human-like mocking expression.

Bang!

A tremendous amount of Spiritual Force was released, rejecting the green light instantly.

Not only that, the contract spell formation in midair exploded violently too.

Bosain's chest seemed to have been struck by a hammer and he was sent flying backwards.

Large chunks of silver armour fell and crimson red blood was constantly spurted from Bosain's mouth.

“The backlash from the contract!” Leylin who was watching from afar blurted out.

If the contract failed on a powerful creature, magicians will often suffer backlash on their Spiritual Force. Moreover, apart from that Spiritual Force backlash, there was also the attack from the creature's Spiritual Force.

Looking on, it seemed that Bosain's Spiritual Force had been severely damaged. Furthermore, due to the connection of the Spiritual Force with the Magic Artifact, the Magic Artifact had also been damaged.

Hua La La!

Just when Bosain was sent flying back, a white protection rune flew up from his body. A milky white light then engulfed Bosain who was still vomiting out blood.

This kind of milky white radiance was resplendent and filled with a sacred feeling. Under the radiance of the light, even the naked eye could see that Bosain was rapidly recovering.

“A single-use healing rune?” Leylin's eyes squinted, recognising the origins of that white protection rune.

“There are indeed plenty of items on his body!” Although Bosain did not suffer a severe injury as was expected, Leylin was still somewhat satisfied with it. After all, it had forced him to use one of his trump cards.

The synthesizer of this protection rune had to use many precious resources. Moreover, it required a huge amount of Magic Power and Spiritual Force from an official Light Magus. Even if it was Bosain, he couldn't be holding on to another of this protection rune.

“What happened?”

Jayden and Shaya who saw Bosain flying back revealed expressions of disbelief.

“The contract binding has failed. Hurry and kill this damned black snake!”

Leylin withdrew the cross blade on his waist. With an incantation, a layer of frost covered the cross blade.

Frost Alchemy Runes! It was a type of alchemy rune that was specially used on equipment, adding on might equivalent to a low-grade Magic Artifact temporarily. After using it the equipment would normally break.

Leylin’s cross blade had long since been damaged back in the bloodbath.

However, there were as many cross blades in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy as he needed for him to purchase.

The frost greatsword was immediately wielded and raised in Leylin’s hands. From the blade, a terrible chillness was emitted, and this attracted the gazes of Jayden and Shaya.

“I knew it!” Jayden’s roared internally, “Leylin being able to survive in the bloodbath, he definitely would have some tricks up his sleeve!”

“Bind him, I’m going up!”

Leylin looked at the black snake which was still bound by the green vines and red hair in the eye.

After releasing an explosive amount of Spiritual Force to inflict damage on Bosain, the Black Horrall Snake right now continuously writhed its massive body, the energy waves surging out rampantly.

Zhi Ya!

Countless vines and hair were broken; Jayden’s and Shaya’s faces, too, became more and more uneasy.

“Hurry! I can’t hold on much longer!” Shaya shouted from the side.

“Cross Blade Slash!”

Leylin’s muscles bulged, and his whole body seemed to increase by a size.

[The Host has entered the state of a Knight’s secret technique. Strength and agility have been greatly boosted! Vitality decreased!] The A.I. Chip very soon reported the change in stats.

During the three years back in Extreme Night City, Leylin had

picked up the secret technique for Knight's to enter the explosive state from Viscount Jackson.

This was even better than a secret killing move. Furthermore, the technique came from a Grand Knight, which was much better than the secret technique inherited from Leylin's Farlier Family.

Under the impressive calculations done by the A.I. Chip, Leylin incorporated Viscount Jackson's secret knight technique with his cross blade killing technique, achieving an exponential increase in the secret technique attack.

Right now, the secret technique that Leylin used had already reached the standard of a Grand Knight. The side effects had reduced, and the might was stronger than before.

Under the loud roar, Leylin jumped high in the air. Two arcs of slash were sent from the frost greatsword.

The two slashes crossed one another, forming a large 'X' in the air. Frost continued to condense, creating a layer of ice on the large 'X' which was sent towards the Black Horrall Snake.

Chi!

The icy 'X' directly chopped at the neck of the Black Horrall Snake. Scales continuously fell and there was a layer of ice on the area.

There was a giant cross-shaped wound on the Black Horrall Snake now. The frost continued to spread and a lot of fresh blood with a trace of black coloured snake blood was forced out from the wound.

“Hisssssss!” The black snake let off an enraged cry. It violently thrashed its body and broke many more vines and hair on its body.

“Good! Maintain this might. As long as it’s done several more times, we can definitely decapitate this snake!”

Glee appeared on Shaya’s face.

“Hisssssssssssssss!” After the madness, the Black Horrall Snake strangely calmed down.

After halting its writhing, the scales on its body continuously flashed with a black light, emitting a layer of negative energy that Leylin was familiar with.

“This is the energy particles of the Shadow element! Be careful...” Through the indication given by the A.I. Chip, Leylin immediately warned the rest.

Alas, they were a step too late!

Without warning, half of the Black Horrall Snake’s body turned transparent. First, it was the scales, then the skin, the flesh and finally the bones...

The transparency very soon covered the body of the whole snake. The giant snake which had the length of a dozen metres disappeared in the next moment.

“What is this? A concealment spell? A pity that under the two restraints from our Magic Artifact, what use would that be?” Shaya spoke in bewilderment.

“It’s not a concealment spell, but one which can negate any attacks while it is in stealth mode!”

Hua La La! The countless green vines and red hair on the Black Horrall Snake seemed to lose its target in an instant. It seemed to be binding only thin air now and fell on the floor.

“A spell with an effect like this?” Jayden’s pupil shrank. “This is no longer a Rank 0 Spell, but the effect from an official Magus. Why did it not use it earlier?”

“Because the consumption was too great and it cannot withstand it for a second time!”

Leylin guessed. This Shadow Stealth was comprehended by the Black Horrall Snake as an innate skill after maturing. Moreover during its regression, it had fortunately retained this skill.

The spell achieved the effect of a Rank 1 Spell. Leylin absolutely could not imagine the might of this spell when the Black Horrall

Snake was in its mature state.

“I’m afraid that even official Magi would not be able to discover it, only be swallowed as food while in fear!”

“Hurry! The triangular defensive formation!” Leylin roared.

Sou Sou! Jayden and Shaya who knew that it was not the time to be slow rushed towards Leylin’s side. Even Bosain joined them with a gloomy expression.

The four of them formed a mysterious defense formation. They stood at the three corners of it as a layer of vine and hair continued to wrap around the area, protecting the four within.

This was one of the combinations that they had agreed on previously.

An invisible enemy was the most dangerous! Leylin, highly tensed, looked at the surroundings, not knowing at all when the Black Horrall Snake would strike.

Under the illuminating spell, the whole cave was brightly lit.

There was only dried mud on the floor. Apart from scales and a few puddles of blood, there were completely no traces of the snake’s tracks whatsoever.

It was as if such a massive snake had just vanished.

“Be careful, this is very similar to a Rank 1 Shadow Element Spell—Shadow Stealth. I have seen it once performed by an elder in my family. They are completely invisible on the physical plane as long as the time limit was not up, or when an enemy attacks it...”

Bosain spoke hurriedly, with a hint of anxiety and gloom in his tone.

Leylin understood the feelings behind it. No matter who it was—after losing a scroll worth tens of thousands of Magic Crystals and a rune which could protect the life—they would not feel good about it.

“What should we do? Continue to wait for it to appear?” Jayden was extremely unresigned as he controlled the vines to lash at the surrounding granite walls. A pity, however, the dust created did not help pinpoint the location of the snake.

“Snake type creatures have a strong intent for vengeance. It would definitely not leave like this. Maybe it is just around us, waiting for an opportunity...”

Leylin’s voice was faintly discernible. It made Shaya who was beside him tense and kept a tight grip on that Magic Artifact comb in her hands.

“A.I. Chip! Can you detect where the Black Horrall Snake is?”

Leylin asked inwardly.

[No results from scanning! No reaction from thermal detection! No energy waves from a large creature in the surroundings!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned and made Leylin's expression darken.

Regarding the spells of an official Magus, the A.I. Chip now was still somewhat helpless against them.

Hu! Suddenly, a dozen metres in front of Jayden, many translucent scales appeared in midair and yet vanished again quickly.

“There!” Jayden's eyes flashed. Dozens of vines crisscrossed, forming a large net and was sent over.

After which, Shaya shot out a green fireball, following right behind the net.

Bang! The green net vines caught nothing but air, falling to the ground.

The fireball too caused a huge pit on the ground with an explosion, yet no traces of the snake was discovered.

“En?”

Leylin suddenly tensed up. His scalp was tingling as if being

stared on by some dangerous creature.

This feeling came purely from his instincts. The A.I. Chip and the detection spells had no effects at all.

However, he completely believed in his intuition. Leylin immediately made a decisive action and rolled on the ground, away from his original position.

“Hisssss!”

Behind the place where Leylin was originally standing, there was a flickering in the air and the massive body of the Black Horrall Snake materialised.

From the huge head of the snake, a vicious ray of light flashed. The snake opened its jaws and clamped on Shaya who was standing close to Leylin’s original position. Half of her body entered the snake’s jaws as it chewed.

Boom!

An intense explosion sounded within the snake’s mouth and a layer of purple flame escaped from the jaws.

A huge energy wave was detected which led the A.I. Chip to flash indicators wildly.

“It’s Shaya! She self-destructed the Magic Artifact right before she died!”

Jayden spoke hoarsely.

Chapter 113: Blood Quintessence

“Now!”

Bosain roared and the silver armour on his body formed again. He also produced a silver longsword, which caused a few ripples in the void around it.

“All out!” Jayden’s eyes reddened. He chanted a few ancient incantation and even bit on his finger, letting the blood drip on the green badge.

Bang!

Countless vines broke out from the ground. Only that the vines now were all red and the reverse thorns were even denser. On them, there were even a tinge of green and an extremely dangerous aura came permeating from it.

“Since it’s become like this!” Leylin waved an arm, and a dozen fire red potion left his hands.

Several more bright flames were exploded on the Black Horrall Snake’s body.

Furthermore, there was a flash on Leylin’s hands, and the black longbow once again appeared in his palm.

“Frost Runes!”

Leylin chanted an incantation and a layer of frost covered the original black longbow, turning the arrows into icy shards!

“Kill!!!”

The 3 different voices sounded at the same time.

The red vines had a faster speed than before, even bringing a gale of wind. In an instant, it had already bound the Black Horrall Snake which was rolling on the floor.

At the same moment, an icy arrow shot past the void and pierced through the right eye of the black snake.

“Hissssssss!”

The Black Horrall Snake’s mouth was set on fire and one of its eyeballs had burst. From the socket, there was a huge amount of resplendent and translucent fluid that poured out. The snake was screeching in agony at this point in time.

“Meet your death!”

During the explosion, Bosain’s silver armour turned into a metal liquid, converging onto the longsword in his hands.

After this scene, the silver longsword immediately became five metres long. On the blade, there were even some mystical runes.

“The strongest power! The strongest state! Go to hell!”

Bosain’s muscles bulged and there were plenty of flashes of light from the spell.

Leylin only glanced at it and discovered many Rank 0 Spells which could temporarily increase the physical attributes of strength and vitality.

Under the support of so many spells, right now Bosain’s stats had most likely exceeded that of a Grand Knight. It was close to the evolved form of Grand Knights in myths—the Branded Swordsman!

Pu!

The longsword easily pierced through the defense of the Black Horrall Snake right into the crucial point of the giant snake, the place where the heart was.

Innumerable fresh blood laced with some blackish blood frothed out. The snake’s figure tried to raise itself, yet it was held tightly by the red vines. Also, the giant red vines climbed to where the wound was and, as if it had an intelligence of its own, it bore its way right into the wound.

“Hisssssssssss!”

The giant snake continuously bellowed and twisted as blood constantly splattered onto the muddy ground.

After struggling for a dozen of minutes, the Black Horrall Snake’s left eye was completely devoid of lustre and it fell to the ground.

“Is it dead?”

Jayden looked somewhat disbelieving as he asked. The red vines were still writhing on the body of the snake.

[Target is severely injured, its life force waves are continuously declining!]

[Target’s life force has fallen to the lowest!]

[Target’s life force waves has completely vanished. Dead!]

The indication from the A.I. Chip let Leylin know that the giant snake was indeed dead. However, he still said, “Let’s first perform some detection spells!”

Leylin was able to vividly recall the fact that the A.I. Chip could not detect the Black Horrall Snake when it was invisible.

Who knew if this black snake had some secret method which allowed it to hide its life force waves and escape the detection of the A.I. Chip!

After which, the 3 acolytes began casting many spells. Finally, they could confirm that this Black Horrall Snake—which killed two of their party members—was really dead.

After hearing this conclusion, Jayden hurriedly retracted his red vines and collapsed onto the ground.

Leylin noted that there was not a single sign of redness on Jayden's face. His pallid complexion made it extremely obvious that he had just lost a lot of blood.

As for Bosain on the other side, the greatsword had turned back into the liquid metal and was tucked back into his robes. Even the armour could not maintain its form.

Looking at it, his Magic Artifact seemed to have consumed a lot of energy.

These little tidbits of information had been recorded into the database of the A.I. Chip. Moreover, it had wildly calculated the battle state of the two and came up with a battle success rate.

Of course, in the eyes of those two, Leylin was simply an above average acolyte. Apart from his Potioneering skills, there was only his Frost Alchemy Rune which seemed decent.

This was the false image that Leylin had painstakingly created.

“Also this! Hurry and harvest them!”

Leylin looked at the black snake which was devoid of life. The wounds on its body continuously had blood flowing out from it.

A spell wave with low energy waves was formed on Leylin’s hands.

“What are you doing?” Bosain and Jayden immediately pulled their distance away from Leylin, looking at him warily.

Once the threat was gone, under the enticement of benefits, seeds of distrust was unknowingly planted and had already begun to sow between the party members.

“Just collecting the materials!” Leylin’s spell never stopped.

“Blood!” After a few chants, Leylin opened his mouth and spat out a Byron language word.

Hu Hu!

The blood puddle on the floor seemed to have a direction as they flowed towards Leylin’s palms on a few blood traces.

Countless blood flew in midair, continuously converging like a bloody ball of light.

Hua La La! The void seemed to have an invisible strength that was continuously compressing the blood as it congealed, finally turning into a small rock with the colour of blood.

Di Di! The invisible energy was directly applied on the wound of the Black Horrall Snake, and the blood within its body was continuously pulled out.

Minutes later, the Black Horrall Snake seemed to have gotten somewhat smaller, its scales turning pale.

As for Leylin, his hand now held a dozen fist-sized blood-coloured rocks.

All the blood essence of the dozen metres long Black Horrall Snake congealed only to the size of a dozen rocks.

This was one of the Rank 0 Spell that Leylin had learned, used specifically to harvest the blood from large creatures.

After seeing the spell effect that Leylin cast, Bosain and Jayden then relaxed their guard. However, Leylin could still detect a trace of wariness deep within their eyes.

“The Black Horrall Snake’s blood is an ingredient for many potions. I wish to have all of it. As for the other materials on the black snake, I can let go of a portion of them to match the value of the blood!”

Leylin smiled and explained.

The contents of the broken diary that Leylin saw back then in the experiment lab near Extreme Night City surfaced on his mind then. Towards several words such as ‘modulate’, ‘bloodline’ and the likes caused him have an unknown instinct to collect the blood, even at the cost of offending these two.

“Blood?” Bosain cocked his head and suddenly laughed.

“Indeed! For many Potion Masters, the blood from powerful creatures was often a necessary ingredient for their potions.”

The concept of bloodlines and such did not enter Bosain’s train of thoughts at all.

After all, many ancient creatures had been extinct for thousands and thousands of years. In many creatures within the Magus World, only traces of the ancient creatures’ reflection could be seen.

As for how to extract the ancient bloodlines, this subject had been extensively researched by many magicians, yet there were no breakthroughs.

To obtain a fragment of gene from the blood and then reforming it into an essence, was well outside the capabilities of magicians.

Only a Rank 4 Magus of the legends or above would that have a chance of being possible.

However, a Rank 4 Magus on the South Coast was just a myth.

“This Black Horrall Snake’s ingredients are at least worth 100,000 Magic Crystals!” Jayden’s eyes gleamed and his face revealed an intoxicated expression.

Towards magical snake creatures like these, the part that was the most valuable were their scales, innards, brains and the likes. These were often the good ingredients to synthesize Magic Artifacts.

As for blood and other stuff, apart from Potion Masters and Alchemists who needed them occasionally, there were not many uses for them elsewhere.

After the circumstance where Leylin acted first, the three acolytes discussed briefly. Jayden and Bosain would then gather the most valuable few parts of the snake, then cast a preserving Rank 0 Spell before leaving the place.

To them, right now the loot from the snake was just the reward from the outer area of the remnant, who knows how many more

good stuff there were inside there.

“This remnant site seems to be of an extremely high grade!”

Jayden sized up the cave to try to search for more clues, “It actually planted a sentinel mechanism right at the very start, even leaving such a dangerous creature... A pity for Roth and Shaya...”

Towards the deaths of these two party members, Leylin and the other two only put on a superficial downcasted expression before recovering very soon.

To be honest, these two acolytes had only been in contact with Leylin for several days, so he did not feel much for them.

Magicians were often apathetic creatures. Very soon, the three diverted their attention back towards the remnant.

“Using powerful creatures to guard the remnants seems to be the style of the Kukeral period!”

Bosain seemed to recall something, “The Kukeral period’s constructions were simple and boorish. Even those warning mechanisms were extremely simple, it would not go past two stages!”

“Which is to say, once we get through another mechanism, we should be able to near the heart of the remnant!”

Jayden's eyes gleamed, "Then what are we still waiting for?"

To him, finding information to advance into an official Magus was the most important task. Although collecting advanced ingredients was not bad, it did not have the allure of the inheritance of an official Magus,

The three acolytes used various Rank 0 Spell to probe the interior of the cave, finally finding a hole in the corner.

The pitch black hole even grew a layer of green rust. It seems to be made of some metal.

Sssii!

A green eyeball immediately flew from the hole.

"Pa!" Jayden reached out to grab it and inserted it back into his socket.

"Not many dangers ahead. However, five thousand metres further, my spell seemed to be blocked, as if there has to be a verification of some sorts before going through. "

On the other side, Leylin and Bosain too used their own methods to inspect the cave before giving the same results.

Chapter 114: The Dylan Gardens

“That being so, why don’t we all enter together?!”

Bosain looked at the other two.

“Certainly!” Resolve surfaced on Jayden’s face.

For him, the exploration, this time, was only considered successful if he found a Magus inheritance!

“I have no objections!” Leylin looked calm on the surface, yet it was contrary to what he felt.

He was aware of the person who left behind this inheritance and what was buried here.

“Rank 4 Magus, a virtuous person in legends, inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm!” Leylin’s heart blazed in desire.

The three had the same opinion and entered the rusty metal passage.

The tunnel was broad, enough to fit 3 adults walking side by side.

Since they were 3 youths, naturally they had more freedom for movement.

Leylin touched the wall and grey dust fell down, revealing the silver metal wall behind it.

At first, it felt was icy-cold, then again it felt warm. This metal gave a strange sensation when Leylin's fingers touched upon it.

[Discovery of an unknown metal, not registered within database!]
After a scan, the A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

“This is the Crying Blood Alloy. It seems that during its casting, it requires the fresh blood of beasts or slaves. Reportedly, there is a certain limit to its effect on the spirit bodies!”

Bosain whispered into Leylin's ears.

If magicians were treated as commoners, then Bosain would belong to nobility within magicians. His knowledge still surpassed Leylin's in certain areas.

Moreover, a few precious materials could only be obtained within such families, Leylin had no access to them at all.

“Blood Crying Alloy?!”

Leylin commanded silently, “A.I. Chip, record composition!”

[Beep! Target information collect, saving in database. Folder:

Resource Information—Blood Crying Alloy!]

The A.I. Chip's indicator sounded in Leylin's ears.

“The distance to the protective screen observed earlier is becoming shorter!”

Jayden walked on the right, suddenly speaking, “Since this is a passage constructed by this type of alloy, there may be something appearing ahead...”

“A spirit body!” Leylin and Bosain called in unison, their face looking awful.

For acolytes, they lack effective defensive measures. For spiritual body attacks, they had no good countermeasures for it.

If it were regular acolytes, they would have long since retreated.

However, Leylin and the others were different. Bosain and Jayden had Magic Artifacts on them, which could be temporarily used for defense. Although those were not defensive Magic Artifacts like the Fallen Star Pendant, could still protect their spirits from being attacked for the time being.

As for Leylin himself, he had researched on spirit bodies for over two years. Under the aid of the A.I. Chip, his knowledge on spirit bodies had exceeded even a few of his professors.

At this moment, Leylin quivered.

[The negative energy density in the air has increased by an additional 3.14% than regular settings!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

“This environment seemed to be recorded by the A.I. Chip before. It is one of the most suitable environments for spirit bodies to survive!”

A strong fearful instinct rose from Leylin's body.

“It's here!”

Leylin eyes squinted, there was a bright hole appearing in front of them.

After passing through the cave hole, Leylin, and the rest felt a radiant light whose glare bothered their eyes and they could not help but shut their eyes.

When they opened their eyes again, they had already entered a sea of flowers with varying colours.

Tulips, flaming poppies, red large winding chrysanthemum, green calla lily, various flowers that Leylin knew and don't know were blooming in this flower garden.

The garden seemed to be under some spell. Different blooming seasons and different areas of flowers were blooming wildly in this garden.

The secular world flowers were only for decoration. After a quick whiff, Leylin discovered many useful herbs for magicians.

Many were those that even Kroft could never find. Yet now, they were sitting here in this garden.

“Violet Leaves Flower, Nose Root Fruit, Walking Dragonfly, Inverted Sunflower and there is even the Void Flower!”

Jayden and Bosain, too, gasped in amazement.

Towards the end, there were many species of flowers that Leylin could not recognise, but seeing where they were planted, their value must be above that of the Void Flower.

Right now, Leylin finally knew why the Dylan Gardens were named.

This huge garden was at least a dozen square kilometres. How much valuable plants were here? How much worth of Magic Crystals?

Leylin only thought about it for a while and felt dazed.

“Haha... the Sun Golden Flame! It’s actually the Sun Golden Flame!”

Jayden looked at a flaming plant at the middle with a fervent gaze.

“The strength of the Sun Golden Flame can even be combined with Grine Water to help Fire element acolytes to breakthrough. The success rate is increased by 20%!”

Jayden muttered and his hand unknowingly went to reach for the fire red Sun Golden Flame.

“Don’t!” Leylin seemed to thought of something and spoke suddenly.

Alas, it was too late. Jayden completely ignored Leylin’s warning and reached for the flowerbed.

Ding Ling! Ding Ling! Ding Ling!

A sound similar to chimes sounded, and was extremely melodious to the ears.

The air stopped! The wind stopped!

Leylin and the other two felt nothing below their feet and was

immediately shifted to another area.

It seemed to be the interior of a villa. The four walls were displayed with brand new furniture. On the pale yellow desk, there was a lamp which contained an orange-red flame.

“Where is this place?”

Jayden spoke, losing his voice.

“A type of defense mechanism. It seems like we have been transported to another area!” Leylin smiled wryly.

Bosain was looking at Jayden right now, and he no longer appeared friendly.

“However, there is also good news. According to the Kukeral period’s traditions, if we solve this mechanism, most of the remnant’s defensive mechanism will immediately lose their effect.”

Bosain’s face darkened, “Originally, we had many opportunities to explore, and this is all because of you!”

He pointed at Jayden. Leylin suspected that if not for the dangers lurking in the area Bosain would most likely attack him.

“Teehee! Who’s here to play with Alice?”

A mechanical girl's voice sounded.

At the turn of a corridor, something appeared—a Western Doll?

Leylin noticed the giant mannequin that was in the shadows of the corridor's corner.

This western doll seemed to have to size of a grown adult. The eyeballs were of blue gems sewn in. It wore a pink frock and had beautiful blonde hair. On the chest, there was a red bowknot.

“A vengeful spirit figurine!” Bosain stuttered.

“Vengeful spirit figurine?” Leylin had not heard of this word before.

Obviously, this was a spirit body of some sort. Looking at the physical body of the vengeful spirit figurine, Leylin realised that his research and probes on the spirit aspect had just been on a superficial level.

At the very least, he was completely clueless about these types of vengeful spirits that seemed to border between illusion and reality.

“Hehe! You come play with Alice!”

The blonde girl pointed a finger at Leylin. Her arms were made of

fabric and had no palm. Only a naked arm which was a glossy hemisphere.

Bang!

A translucent forcefield immediately exploded behind Leylin. He flew up in the air and could not stop himself as he flew towards the cloth doll.

“Come here! My little baby! Let Alice give you a hug!”

The cloth doll spread her arms as if wanting to hug Leylin.

Jayden and Bosain looked at each other and immediately left the cloth doll and retreated. They actually abandoned Leylin and left.

“Fuck!” Leylin tossed two balls of flames on the cloth doll and set it ablaze.

However, the fire was quickly extinguished, and not even a trace of the damage was found on the cloth doll.

Ding! Many baby sized arms appeared faintly from the void and seemed to pull on Leylin. A pair of girl’s arms was even touching Leylin’s waist now.

A numb feeling was immediately spreading from his waist.

Leylin's eyes flashed in viciousness and immediately threw a yellow potion on the ground.

A yellow protection screen immediately appeared around Leylin's body, separating the countless baby sized arms.

Trevor's Revolving Shield Potion!

The only defense potion that Leylin had access to was now duly exhibiting its effects.

"Argh! You have hurt Alice!"

The cloth doll's face split opened, revealing razor sharp teeth, "I'm going to eat you!"

A pair of half transparent beast mouth immediately appeared before Leylin and nipped down.

Ka-Cha! Ripples seemed to have formed on the yellow defensive light shield, letting off noises that could no longer endure the attack.

"This attack is quickly exceeding the capabilities of the potion!"

Leylin felt for the item on his neck, "Now is not the right moment to use my trump card!"

After which, a red flaming potion was tossed out by Leylin.

“Intense Blazing Potion! Also this!” Leylin felt for several pink coloured pearls in his sack and threw it into the flames.

During his stay at Extreme Night City, he had some results from researching spirit bodies.

Apart from researching the laws of the spirit bodies, he also obtained some information on what those spirit bodies hated the most and what could hurt them. This pink coloured pearls contained one of the best effects.

Pu! The pink pearls very soon exploded in the flames, revealing pink powder.

After this addition, the flame turned pink too. It continued to spread until it filled the jaws of the beast.

The huge jaws of the beast let off a terrifying roar and was very soon burnt to ashes by the flame.

At the same time, the flame seemed to have gone through the void, extending to the face of the cloth doll. The cloth doll covered its face as it let out a loud and indignant howl.

After the final wisp of flame had disappeared, the radiant screen on Leylin’s body had completely vanished.

Leylin landed on the floor. On his waist were the scars caused by two tiny hands. His brows furrowed. The clothes on his back had already been corroded, leaving behind two small black imprints on the skin.

“The injury caused by a spirit body must be removed immediately, if not it will continue to spread!”

Leylin hurriedly withdrew several white leaves and applied on the wound. Suddenly a refreshing feeling could be felt from the injury.

Pa! Pa!

The windows on the side were broken, and two figures immediately charged in.

Bosain looked at Jayden, the surroundings and then looked at Leylin on the ground. He smiled wryly, “It seems like no matter where we go, we will always return here!”

Chapter 115: Falling Out

“It seems like we have to get rid of her first!”

Leylin’s face was expressionless as he pointed to the cloth doll which was still clutching its face.

Regarding the matter of the other two abandoning him earlier, it seemed like the trio were suffering from selective amnesia.

Leylin understood that if he were to fall out with these two now, it would be a devastating loss.

Concerning this vengeful spirit figurine, they could only work together to even have a chance at defeating or even killing it.

As for that incident earlier, there would be plenty of opportunities later to get back at them!

“Fire! Alice hates fire the most!”

At this moment, the pink flame had already been extinguished on the pink doll’s face.

The originally beautiful face of the cloth doll was now charred black. Even an eyeball was now missing.

However the doll still laughed and said, “The three of you, let’s play together!”

With a wave of its hand, the tables and chairs began to jump around. Even the lamps and closet seemed to grow a pair of small legs as they danced and sang nursery rhymes, gradually surrounding Leylin and the other two.

“Umbra’s Hand!”

“Corrosive Blaze!”

“Acidic Aqua Shot!”

.....

The trio constantly cast their spells on the tables and other furniture surrounding them. However, these creatures were too many, even if they killed a couple there was of not much use.

Moreover, even if they used their Magic Artifacts to attack the doll, it would at most leave behind some scars and was mostly ineffective.

In the end, the 3 acolytes were back to back, already confined by the figurine in an extremely small area.

“There is no other choice!”

Bosain looked at Jayden and Leylin who had pale expressions on their faces, and a hint of viciousness flashed across his own.

“I have a formidable spell which requires time for preparation. Stall this freak for me!”

Saying which, Bosain withdrew a grey scroll that was drawn with various mystical patterns, immediately sitting cross-legged on the floor and chanted an incantation.

Hope glowed on the faces of Leylin and Jayden. They cast their spells with great difficulty, blocking the advance of the monsters.

“He’s finally forced to use it, huh!” Leylin thought.

Jayden’s frail state was real. However, Leylin was just feigning his frailty. However, the situation earlier was extremely dire. Just a little more and Leylin would have had to use the Fallen Star Pendant for defense.

However, from Bosain’s point of view, Leylin and Jayden were newly advanced Level 3 Acolyte. Their Spiritual Force and Magic Power had long since been depleted.

Even Jayden had used his Magic Artifact several times.

As for Leylin, a Potioneering acolyte, being able to last till here

had somewhat exceeded Bosain's expectations.

Of course, he did not know that although Leylin had advanced not too long ago, under the aid of potions, Leylin's Spiritual Force now was even stronger than his own which he had accumulated over some time and formed a sturdy foundation for an official Magus advancement.

Furthermore, Leylin had even concealed his defense type Magic Artifact.

"A healing rune which was used earlier, an attack scroll, a contract scroll and a Magic Artifact which can take on the form of anything to attack and defense!"

Leylin flung his potions and chanted an incantation, constantly panting.

"Although Bosain belongs to a large family, he is after all only an acolyte. With these items, he is already unfathomable!"

Under the concealment of the intense energy waves from spells, Leylin secretly calculated the remaining energy of Bosain.

Dozens of seconds later, Bosain had finally completed his activation of the magic scroll. The grey scroll was now floating in midair, emitting a fire red light.

"This energy wave! It's a Rank 1 Spell! No wonder it needs such a

long activation time!”

Leylin’s pupils shrank. Immense energy waves came from the scroll, not only did it send the creatures surrounding them in retreat, it faintly caused Leylin and Jayden to be unable to breathe.

Bosain’s family had actually provided him with a Rank 1 Magus spell stored in a scroll, as his greatest trump card!

“He is indeed from one of the three big families, who are rich and overbearing!”

This scroll contained a seal Rank 1 Spell. Not only was the ingredients for it exorbitant, it required the official Magus to cast this spell over a dozen times to imbue it. Moreover, there needs to be a Grand Alchemist who is skilled in imbuing spell formations. Every one of these scrolls was extravagant.

Each scroll was at least 100,000 Magic Crystals and above!

It had a sky-high cost and also there was the difficulty of imbuing. Apart from acolytes, official Magus would not have much use for it. Various reasons had caused scrolls like this to be rare in their numbers. Only large families like the Lilytell Family would be able to have 1 or 2 of it.

After forking out such a price, the scroll’s might was extremely deafening!

Fire red energy waves continuously radiated, and the scroll automatically burned within the light.

The flame, under the bright yellow light, revealed a giant Three-Legged Golden Crow.

The Three-Legged Golden Crow used its beak to ruffle its feathers, continuously issuing crystal clear cawing.

As if like a real bird. Moreover, from the black pupils, signs of intelligence were observed, it seemed to have wisdom.

“Go!” Bosain’s face now was extremely pale as he punctured his lips with his teeth. On the side of the eyes, there was sweat rolling off, yet he let off an extremely zealous expression as he pointed at the cloth doll.

It seems like the spell he cast earlier allowed him to have a huge sense of satisfaction.

“No! Don’t come over! Alice is scared!”

The cloth doll opposite retreated 3 steps. On that figurine’s face, there was an expression of fear, as if a little girl had encountered a bad guy.

However, Leylin and the others were not moved by this scene.

Along with Bosain's orders, the Three-Legged Golden Crow flapped its wings and the bright yellow wings burned with flames as it flew around Bosain and the other two in a circle.

Several bean-sized flame dropped onto the furniture which had been given life.

Bang! Balls of yellow flames were set ablaze, and the various chairs and tables were each reduced to a pile of grey ashes.

“Jiu Jiu!”

The Three-Legged Golden Crow let out an elegant cry and flew across in the air, directly landing in front of the cloth doll.

The bright, red, conical beak took aim and gave the cloth doll a light peck!

“Arghh!” The cloth doll Alice let out a frightened whimper and its body was immediately set on fire with the bright yellow flame.

“Save Alice, Alice is actually very obedient...”

The figurine collapsed on the ground, reaching out a hand towards Leylin and the others, its voice carrying a hint of pleading.

Leylin and Jayden turned around and saw a crazed expression in Bosain's eyes as he continued to ignite the flame.

The bright yellow flame burned continuously, finally turning the cloth doll in ashes.

“Alright!” Bosain turned over and faced Leylin and Jayden, revealing a smiling face with his intentions unknown.

Leylin’s heart skipped a beat and his hand already reached towards his neck.

“Jiu Jiu!”

At this moment, the Three-Legged Golden Crow cawed and turned into the grey scroll earlier as it fell to the ground.

“Pa!”

The grey scroll disintegrated into ashes into the surroundings.

After seeing the energy of the scroll fully utilised, Bosain’s face looked terribly unsightly, but he still forced a smile on his face.

“Alright, the creature is dealt with. Let us find the way out...”

Just when Leylin was about to say something, another loud crash sounded. Behind the cloth doll, the walls shook and revealed a crack, showing a straight tunnel.

On the wooden boards of the wall, there was a line of characters written in the ancient Byron language.

Seekers who are able to come here will have a chance to obtain my inheritance—Norco Curadu Sfar.

“Norco Curadu Sfar is the Magus who left behind this inheritance?” Jayden revealed a longing and curious expression.

As for Bosain on his side, he muttered the name, Norco Curadu Sfar, repeatedly. An ecstatic expression gleamed in his eyes but was quickly restrained.

However, this had been seen by Leylin who had been observing him furtively. He knew that Bosain had definitely thought what the name had represented.

“I seemed to have heard of this name, but it’s very vague now!” At this moment, Leylin also scratched his head, revealing a ‘dazed’ expression.

“No matter who, it’s definitely an official Magus! And his inheritance will definitely let me advance!” Jayden was extremely zealous and immediately rushed into the tunnel.

“Follow him!” Bosain and Leylin followed closely behind Jayden.

After walking through the tunnel, Leylin and the others came to a study-room-like place.

The four walls were filled with bookshelves, yet not a single book was to be seen, which made Leylin blurt out that it was a pity.

As for the large table in the centre, there was a black box placed neatly on it.

Behind the study desk, there was a chair and a strange oil painting.

The oil painting showed a mysterious emblem—countless mystical runes formed a snake. The snake traced its own tail, forming the picture of a circle!

“I seem to have seen this emblem somewhere before!” Leylin was somewhat confused but he threw that thought away.

“It seems like this place was set up by the Great Magus Serholm for his inheritance. This Great Magus is still somewhat benevolent. The mechanisms were all below the strength of an official Magus. If not, with just a little increase in difficulty, we would all have perished in here!”

Leylin was somewhat happy to let Jayden and the others come here with him. If not, just with his strength alone he would not have been able to reach this place.

“Wasn’t there a magician called ‘Norco’? Where are his remnants?” Leylin wished to ask this question, but it was very soon flung to the back of his head.

Because the scene right now took on a massive change!

After seeing the black box on the study desk, Bosain’s and Jayden’s panting started to become heavier.

Bang!

A silver white longsword suddenly appeared in Bosain’s hands and was sent slashing towards Jayden.

The vine armour on Jayden’s body flashed, but a cut still appeared; his arm bleeding profusely.

Sou Sou Sou!

The three of them immediately kept a distance from one another.

“As expected, in the end, we are going to fall out huh?” Jayden clutched his arm, letting off a bitter smile.

Looking at Jayden in this state, Leylin suddenly recalled that when they set off together, Jayden did not request for them to sign any contract. It seems like he had long since anticipated an outcome like this.

Chapter 116: Taking Action

“Indeed! The inheritance of an official Magus is a sufficient reason for this fellowship to be broken!”

Jayden spoke slowly.

“Not only that!” Now, the metal liquid covered Bosain’s body and turned into a silver white armour.

“If it was just a spell model, Grine Water or something of that sort, I wouldn’t mind at all. But this is Norco Curadu Sfar’s legacy!”

Bosain’s face became flushed.

“We are talking about the Great Magus Serholm! The inheritance of a Rank 4 Morning Star Magus!”

“The Great Magus Serholm?!” Clarity appeared on Jayden’s face. Of course, he had heard of the legend of this great Magus.

However, in the legends, the Great Magus Serholm used an alternative title. Apart from Leylin who had an overpowered way to store data and Bosain who had a solid family foundation, there were many who weren’t aware of this fact.

“Since you know the reason, you can die in peace!”

Bosain did not conceal the killing intent on his face as he viciously slashed the silver white sword down upon Jayden.

Hua! The longsword split into countless small silver needles that were sent flying towards Jayden.

”Form a shield!” Jayden shouted. More vines appeared from the badge and took the form of a large shield, in front of Jayden.

Ding Ding Dang Dang! Countless needles fell like rain onto his shield, creating many small holes.

The huge impact sent Jayden staggering backwards. His face became filled with despair.

“Jayden! I know all of your tricks. Apart from your Magic Artifact what other trump cards do you have?”

Bosain spoke these words to try and shatter Jayden’s confidence.

Jayden retreated until his back hit a wall, then he turned his head and shouted to Leylin. “Leylin! Let’s act together! If not we will both die!”

“Leylin! Don’t believe him! If you can stay neutral and be on the sidelines, or even help me, I swear that you will obtain the

friendship of the Lilytell Family!”

After listening to the persuasion of both sides, Leylin appeared panic-stricken; he staggered back two steps and spoke in a quivering voice. “No! I don’t want any inheritance anymore, just let me go....”

After hearing those words, Jayden’s face looked even more aghast and anxious. Even his vine shield had become smaller in size.

Bosain, on the other hand, laughed loudly. “Haha... My Lilytell Family will definitely welcome a Potions Master like Leylin...”

“As for you Jayden! You’re finished!”

The longsword in Bosain’s hands split again and each droplet of liquid metal floated in the air, turning into dart-like objects.

“With my blood....”

After seeing the opponent’s attack, hopelessness surfaced on Jayden’s face. He used the same method as before and smeared his blood on the green badge.

In an instant, the green vine shield turned into a red giant one.

“The energy in your badge should deplete soon huh? Even if you

use your blood as a substitute how long can you last?!”

Bosain shouted and sent countless needles flying towards Jayden.

Bang!

The red shield exploded and the innumerable needles pierced Jayden’s body.

With countless holes present all over his body, Jayden was immediately dyed red. Regret and disbelief filled his face as he fell slowly to the ground.

“Hu hu...” Bosain was panting somewhat loudly at this moment. He turned around and faced Leylin.

“Well done! You did not attack me with him earlier!” With a sinister smile, Bosain pointed at Jayden who laid within a pool of blood.

“I, the heir to the Lilytell Family, the pride of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the silver white swordsman Bosain will grant you your preferred choice of death!”

As he spoke, a commiserating yet toying expression appeared on his face; he was like a lion or tiger who was playing with a rabbit.

“Choice... Way to die....” Leylin squeezed out a smile, “Mister

Bosain, I don't quite understand you!"

"My meaning is extremely clear, you can only die here!" Bosain's expression was cold, "The inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm is too important. I cannot allow the possibility of you leaking any information!"

"Originally, as a genius in Potioneering, you had a bright future. What a pity..." Bosain looked at Leylin regretfully, as if feeling sorry for his plight.

"Perhaps, you would like to end your own life ... It might reduce some of the pain..."

Bosain edged closer and closer to Leylin, his voice gentle yet enticing.

There seemed to be a magical force in his voice, luring Leylin to do things the way he said.

Leylin's eyes went blank, his lips unconsciously formed the following, "I want to..."

"It's going to be a success!" exclaimed Bosain, gleefully.

At that moment, Leylin raised his head and grinned, revealing a pair of bright and shiny teeth, he said, "I want you dead!"

Bang!

A silver streak flew from Leylin's hand onto Bosain's face.

Shock filled Bosain's face, but a layer of liquid metal automatically formed a mask, protecting his face.

Ka-Cha! The silver light skid against the mask, emitting sparks.

"A pity that it's a Magic Artifact with instantaneous defensive capabilities!"

Leylin looked at Bosain who was retreating, his face showed a hint of regret and disappointment.

"You... You were pretending earlier!" Bosain touched his face which had already swollen, and his expression began to contort.

"Such a boring illusory spell! I was not afraid of it when I was a Level 2 Acolyte!"

Leylin smiled brightly, "This look suits you very well! Like a pig head!"

"You're seeking death!"

Bosain's face was flushed from anger; the liquid metal crept and

covered his whole body, forming a silver armour.

His eyes were a little bloodshot as he brandished his longsword and charged towards Leylin.

“I want to pluck each and every tendon from your body, you useless trash who only knows Potioneering!”

“Oh really?”

Leylin frowned. A black longbow appeared in his hands and a frost arrow was shot.

Sssii! Bosain did not dodge nor hide, letting the arrow land on his body.

The frost arrow was blocked by the silver armour and turned into a white mist that covered the surface of Bosain's armour.

Suffering from its effect, Bosain's speed had lowered somewhat.

“I have been watching you all along — all the potions in your bag should have been fully used up, am I right?” Bosain smiled maliciously, directly rushing at Leylin.

“An accurate guess!”

Leylin's smile did not waver, which suddenly made Bosain feel a bad premonition.

“It is unfortunate, but my trump card is not related to potions!”

“Fallen Star Pendant! Activate!”

Along with Leylin's command, a layer of silver-grey light radiated from his body.

This layer seemed like starlight, dim but sturdy and unwavering. It covered Leylin's body forming a silver-grey armour all over him. On the surface of this armour, a few gems were flickering.

Bang!

Bosain struck with his longsword, but he was blocked directly and grabbed by Leylin's right hand, which was covered by the armour. Following which, Leylin viciously punched Bosain's face!

Ka-Cha!

The mask on Bosain's face dented inwards and he immediately spat out several teeth as he flew backwards with a look of disbelief on his face.

“As expected using fists to hit someone feels the best!”

Leylin narrows his eyes and spoke with some satisfaction.

Hua La La! Bosain crashed into a few empty bookshelves and they toppled over him. Numerous decomposing wooden boards buried Bosain within the rubble.

Bang! The wooden boards were blasted away. Once again Bosain stood before Leylin with his bright silver armour.

“I have underestimated you! A defensive type Magic Artifact! You are actually the one amongst us with the most secrets!”

Bosain’s face now was extremely solemn. However, with two swollen lumps on both sides of his face, Leylin felt like laughing when he saw him.

“Too much nonsensical stuff has been said!”

Leylin’s muscles bulged and he clashed with Bosain.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Booming noises sounded from the study room, sending dust flying everywhere. Through the barely visible dust screen, two humanoid creatures wearing armour could be seen charging at each other.

These two creatures seemed not to be afraid of injuries. They

only used the most brutal and barbaric fighting style — completely forsaking their defence, each one simply attacked his opponent.

Bookshelves collapsed continuously and chaos ensued.

If not for the two creatures deliberately avoiding the middle study-table containing the remnants, it, too, would have shared the fate of those bookshelves.

With the seconds turning into minutes, it could be seen that the human figure — the one with the bright silver armour — seemed to be at a disadvantage. The white light on it, too, had somewhat dimmed.

Finally, with a punch from the person armoured a silver-grey, the bright silver armour broke, turning back into its liquid metal form, and then it was restored to its original ball-shaped form.

Leylin once again stomped on Bosain who was on the floor.

Crack!, the sound of breaking bones could be heard from Bosain's chest.

After which, a shoe coated in silver-grey light nonchalantly stepped on his chest.

One corner of Bosain's lips was overflowing with blood, "I regret this! If only my scroll was still here, if only I didn't use 'silver light' so many times earlier!"

Ka-Cha!

Leylin's eyes were devoid of emotion. He showed no quarter towards Bosain and withdrew a dagger from his robes and severed all 4 of Bosain's limbs.

“Arghh....”

Bosain's facial muscles contorted, and cries of anguish reverberated in the whole study room.

Leylin kicked the severed limbs away and took out a hemostasis potion, after which he took out a hemostasis potion and poured it on Bosain's wound — he wasn't going to let Bosain bleed to death.

“You...Just kill me!” Bosain's face was extremely pale as he forced the words out from his mouth.

“How could I have the audacity to kill a member of the mighty Lilytell Family?”

Leylin smiled slightly, yet to Bosain, it seemed to be a very sinister and sadistic smile.

“As the heir of a Magus Family, you would definitely have some tracking spell cast on you by an official Magus. It is very likely that once I killed you, that official Magus would be able to sense it!”

Leylin spoke slowly. At the same time, Bosain's expression turned completely ashen.

Chapter 117: True Or False

Upon seeing the sight of Bosain collapsed on the ground, Leylin did not feel any pleasure.

“You were a worthy opponent — your strength, your equipment, and even your cunning are highly admirable and hard to overcome! Concealing my strength, draining the energy of your Magic Artifact and making you use all of your trump cards — if I had not done all these, today’s victor could certainly have been reversed...”

These were sincere words from Leylin.

If he hadn’t disguised himself as a pig but one that could eat a tiger and saw that Bosain had drained the energy of his Magic Artifact “Silver Light” and also the opportunities that made Bosain reveal his trump cards, the outcome of the battle between Leylin and Bosain would have been rewritten.

But ultimately, Bosain was killed at the hands of Leylin. Even his death could not be decided by himself.

This time’s affair caused Leylin to understand this fact.

In the Magus World, there were innumerable geniuses and even more trump cards. In the future, unless necessary, it was better if he kept a low profile.

Moreover, every one more trump card one has is equivalent to a little more odds of survival.

“You will certainly be found by my father; you will die an unbearable and miserable death...” As Bosain was speaking, his eyes suddenly bulged.

Pu! A bright silvery flash occurred as Leylin’s arms moved, and Bosain’s tongue was cut off!

“As far as acolytes are concerned, so long as they can chant incantations, they are dangerous...”

Leylin, unenthusiastically looking at Bosain who was on the verge of fainting, said, “As I was saying, even though your Spiritual Force and Magic Power has all been consumed, I must not let down my guard!”

“Bind!”

Leylin chanted an incantation and immediately summoned a shadow chain and bound Bosain who had lost his four limbs.

Bosain looked at Leylin who could still cast spells, and his eyes dimmed.

The fact that Leylin could still cast spells meant that his Spiritual

Force and Magic Power was above that of Bosain, yet Bosain already had the Spiritual Force criteria to advance into an official Magus!

“Just one safety lock isn’t enough!”

Leylin frowned and placed the tip of his long, pure white finger on Bosain’s forehead and pressed.

Weng!

A mysterious writhing rune was formed at Leylin’s fingertip. It coursed through Bosain’s body and entered the forehead area.

Bosain’s eyes flashed white and his body spasmed, before fainting.

“Alright now!”

Leylin stood up and patted his hands, his eyes showing an unspeakable amount of desire.

“Right now, there only thing left is the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm!”

The light from the Fallen Star Pendant had always covered Leylin’s body. With a face full of wariness, he crossed over many fallen shelves and came to the centre where the study desk was.

On the study desk, there was a black box. On it was a few thin patterns, as if formed by little snakes.

“Adjust the Fallen Star Pendant’s form and change focus area: right hand!”

Along with Leylin’s command, the grey light on his body flickered and the other areas apart from the right hand dimmed. It all gathered on the fight hand, forming a thick armour.

Leylin gritted his teeth and reached out his right hand to open the black box.

Pa! The lid of the black box was opened. However it exceeded Leylin’s expectations and nothing happened.

In the box was a thick, black book. As for the other empty areas in the box, it was filled with a type of red silk, looking extravagant.

Leylin picked up the book. Ka-Cha! A mechanical sound reverberated throughout the room.

“Damn it!”

Leylin looked at the bottom of the interior of the box after taking the book and was somewhat stupefied.

At the bottom, where after the black book was removed, a Byron language sentence was written in cursive font. “Inheritor! When you take away this ‘Book of Giant Serpent’, the whole secret plane will self-destruct within 3 hourglasses worth of time.”

This row of words was written in blood and seemed extremely striking.

“What exactly was this Great Magus Serholm trying to do?”

Leylin’s thoughts rapidly spun. The 3 hourglasses worth of time was enough for him to find an exit and even farm some of the flowers in the garden before leaving.

“No! Not right. Too easy! There’s something wrong!”

Leylin hurriedly flipped open the Book of Giant Serpent.

“A.I. Chip! Record information!”

The whole book was extremely thick and was written in tiny characters. It was even written in code. If it was any other person, he would most likely not be able to even finish reading the preface of the book before the time of 3 hourglasses was up.

However, Leylin was different. He flipped through the Book of Giant Serpent in a frenzy. In his eyes a blue light surfaced, and the A.I. Chip continuously recorded the information.

In less than the time of half an hourglass, Leylin already flipped through the Book of Giant Serpent once.

“A.I. Chip! How is it going?”

[Information sort is in progress.... Deleting useless information obtained the real content from the Book of Giant Serpent!]

[667 pages of travel notes, 78 experiment notes, 12 Rank 1 spell models, 3 Rank 2 spell models!]

The A.I. Chip quickly sent the information to Leylin’s brain.

“It isn’t there! There is no information about a high-grade meditation technique!” Leylin realised this crucial point.

“According to the vengeful spirit, Roman, the Great Magus Serholm had indeed left a copy of high-grade meditation technique! This reward is considered extremely bountiful to normal acolytes and even Rank 1 Magi. However without the high-grade meditation technique, it’s a failure!”

[Alert! Alert! The host is in a place with unstable energy and it is estimated to collapse in 15minutes 45seconds, counting down...]

The A.I. Chip showed a string of warnings, constantly flashing in front of Leylin.

“A.I. Chip, scan the study room!”

A resolve expression appeared on Leylin’s face, as he began to use various detection techniques to search for concealed compartments in the room.

After 5 minutes, Leylin’s face turned even more unsightly.

“I estimate that I need 5 minutes to leave this place. Which is to say, the time left for me to search is only 6 more minutes! I have to leave before that!”

Although Leylin wanted the high-grade meditation technique badly, he valued his life more than the technique.

“The study desk is okay! No problem with the chair! Oil painting, oil painting!”

Leylin stared fixedly at a most suspicious-looking oil painting.

Apart from an emblem with the similar sign of the Ouroboros[1], there was nothing else on that canvas.

“Eh?!”

At this moment, Leylin discovered a tiny object within his robes radiating heat.

He reached in and withdrew a cheap yellow bronze ring.

This ring seemed to be extremely average — there was even some scratches and rust on it. Inscribed on the surface of the ring was the letter ‘K’, which seemed to represent the emblem of some organisation.

“This is... the ring that was obtained from Roman’s remains!” Leylin thought about the origins of this ring.

Back when he was in Extreme Night City, after searching the lab of the Great Magus Serholm, he found the corpse of the vengeful spirit, Roman. This ring was found on his corpse.

It seems that the vengeful spirit Roman did not just obtain this information. Moreover, he somehow managed to hide some information from Leylin.

Leylin stroked the yellow bronze ring on his finger.

The closer he walked to the oil painting, the more heat the ring emitted. Moreover, there was even light emitting from the letter ‘K’.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

On the bottom area of the oil painting, part of it fell, revealing an

empty hole which had the 'K' symbol, the same as the ring.

Leylin fitted the ring in the gap! Bang! Both sides seamed tightly, and a strange energy wave radiated from it.

Sssii!!

The black snake in runes on the oil painting seemed to come alive and a scarlet gleam was there its eyes. It continuously chased after its tail, spinning within the painting.

The spinning speed of the black snake kept increasing, finally turning into a black hole.

In the hole, there was the space of a small cabinet. In it was a cage that was made of crimson lightning.

Leylin gritted his teeth and looked at the decreasing amount of time, immediately reaching his hands to it.

Bang!

An ancient voice suddenly sounded in Leylin's brain.

"The test has begun. Begin to portray this spell formation within 30 seconds!" A yellow, illusory figure, formed by the spell, appeared in front of Leylin.

“There is even a spell?!” Leylin was now convinced that this Great Magus Serholm was a sadist.

Under the circumstances of the secret plane collapsing, he even intended for the inheritor to complete a test!

Moreover, even if it was a basic spell model, it would at least require several hours of time. 30 seconds? He’s plainly toying with others!

“A.I. Chip! Immediately decrypt with full operational capabilities!”

With Leylin’s order, a bright blue light flashed in his eyes. This was the greatest calculation abilities that the A.I. Chip projected.

[Mission establishing, beginning analysis...] The A.I. Chip loyally carried out its duty, very soon projecting the completed spell formation in Leylin’s brain.

“Construction completed; next test. Within 30 seconds construct this spell formation!” This time, it was a blue formation.

Leylin rolled his eyes and continued to use the A.I. Chip to analyse.

Afterwards, it was the third spell formation, black coloured. This time, the required analysis surpassed Leylin’s expectations. Right before the 30 seconds timer was up he then managed to complete

the formation.

“Will it end now?”

Leylin thought after finishing the third formation.

However, at this moment, the yellow, blue and black formation in his brain began to converge suddenly.

Ka-Cha! After the 3 spell formations instantly merged, it turned into a scarlet coloured spell formation. On the surface, it was filled with many mysterious runes.

Sssii! The scarlet lightning behind the oil painting seemed to have been attracted to him and entered Leylin’s body immediately.

“My inheritor! You must have the courage and wise, be astute and filled with knowledge. Only then, can you break through the shackles of Bloodline...”

That ancient voice sounded once again in Leylin’s mind.

At this moment, the A.I. Chip indicated, [A Spiritual Force data has been received, to accept or deny transmission?]

“Accept!”

Following which, Leylin felt that his brain was stuffed with a load full of information, similar to when he received his meditation technique when he first entered the academy.

A massive stream of information continuously entered his brain and was sorted by the A.I. Chip.

Note:

[1] Ouroboros is an ancient sign which shows the head of a serpent or a dragon eating its tail, forming a circle.

Chapter 118: Destroying The Remnants

“The book is a copy of high-grade meditation technique. It is only for warlocks who carries the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent...”

The beginning of the information already sent Leylin in ecstasy.

“The high-grade meditation technique that I have always dreamt of is finally in my hands now!”

Leylin only felt a surge of blood rush to his brain and almost could not resist screaming in excitement.

[Warning! Warning! Time left for the place to collapsing: 5 Minutes 01 Seconds! It has already reached the limit that the Host has set!] The A.I. Chip reminded Leylin once again.

“Damn!” Leylin started running immediately.

When he started to run out of the study, he glanced quickly at the collapsed corpse of Bosain.

“To have you buried inside the secret plane is the best method to conceal the murderer. And, since I did not directly kill him, the probability of any Detection Magic is very less”.

After walking away from the study room, he found himself inside the Dylan Gardens where there was every kind of flower blooming.

Leylin did not think any further and reached out to grab the few most precious flowers and placed it in his robes. He did not stop his footsteps and directly dashed out from the Dylan Gardens.

After running through the metal passage, Leylin once again returned to the cave where the corpse of the Black Horrall Snake lay.

“Something’s not right, there is something missing!” Leylin ran to where the black snake was. His right hand glowed with the defense of the Fallen Star Pendant and as he traced the opening of the wound he ripped open the stomach and pulled out a scarlet heart out from it.

As the handling of such ingredients was troublesome, Bosain and the rest had decided to retrieve it only when they were prepared to leave.

“There is no more time!” Leylin looked at the timer which was counting down to zero soon and immediately chanted an ancient incantation.

“Starier Guderian!”

“This was the password recorded in the Book of Giant Serpent for leaving the secret plane. A pity that with the destruction of the

secret plane, this time, there was no other chances to use it in the future.

After the chant, Leylin was enshrouded in a red lightning and immediately disappeared from the cave.

On the top of a cliff.

A few red flashes of lightning formed, taking the form of a spell formation.

A brown haired acolyte's illusory image slowly turned into real substance among the lightning and landed on the cliff.

"I am finally out!"

Leylin looked at the void which was constantly emitting energy waves, his expression complicated.

This was the influence of a secret plane self-destructing in the main world. It was extremely weak and extremely difficult to discover.

However, Leylin was clear that the Dylan Gardens, and everything inside it was now wiped off from the face of this world.

"A pity! So many resources and precious herbs...."

Leylin looked down at the energy wave of the void which was slowly vanishing, and he felt a great pity about it.

After all, that was the secret plane of a Rank 4 Magus!

Just the various flowers and herbs in the Dylan Gardens could fetch the price of several millions of Magic Crystals. Moreover, there had been copious quantities of herbs in there.

With it, Leylin would not have to worry about his finances after turning into an official Magus.

“Fortunately, it’s not like I don’t have any gains!” Leylin looked at the few stalks of herbs tightly gripped in his hands, his expression relaxing a little.

On his hands, there were several rare herbs, only that their appearance was not very beautiful at this moment.

As Leylin prioritised in escaping earlier, he merely grabbed a fistful of the most precious plants, so naturally there was some damage done to those herbs.

“There is one more — Book of Giant Serpent!”

Leylin touched the sturdy black book in front of him.

Although it was just something the Great Magus Serholm placed

outside to conceal the high-grade meditation technique inside the oil painting, its price was still extremely precious.

On the Book of Giant Serpent, there were the travel notes of the Great Magus Serholm with the drawings of a few precious items, which could enhance Leylin's knowledge.

Moreover, many experiments were also explicitly stated in detail, which allowed Leylin to benefit from it.

However, the most precious in the Book of Giant Serpent was the 12 Rank 1 Spell models and 3 Rank 2 Spell models! All these were items that the various guilds and magisterium in the South Coast tried to get their hands on. They were something that Magic Crystals could not buy.

Finally, the motive of Leylin's expedition, this time, the high-grade meditation technique, was finally obtained.

This meant that Leylin's path in the future might not be smoothly paved, but at least he had a direction to work towards to. He had more chances than other acolytes!

Any one item on this book, once leaked, will only result in one outcome for Leylin. That is to be listed as wanted by all the organisations in the South Coast!

All official Magi, various academy chairmen, even the strongest Magus that Leylin had seen, the head of the Lighthouse of the

Night, will do their utmost to catch him who was a mere acolyte.

Just thinking of that outcome, Leylin already felt a headache.

At the same time, he resolved to conceal everything he had gotten in this expedition.

“Since I have already decided!” Leylin’s eyes flashed viciously and looked at the few struggling prisoners behind him.

They were captured by Bosain, used as guinea pigs to test the mechanisms of the secret plane. Furthermore, Leylin even bound all of them later.

He did not know how long he stayed inside the secret plane. Only that from what Leylin saw, these few people were already on the verge of death. If he were to come out a little longer, it would just be a few more corpses that he would see.

“I originally wanted to use them to kill Bosain after defeating him, but from what I see now, the self-destruction of the secret plane is a better way to kill him!”

Acolytes who hailed from great families or were geniuses of an academy often had various detection spells placed on them. Once they were to die, the spells would be activated and imbued itself on the closest intelligent creature beside them and turned into a tracking spell. Hence, Leylin seldom attacked other acolytes. If there was a choice, he preferred to use scapegoats to finish his job.

Leylin muttered and walked towards the few prisoners.

Very soon, his face hardened, and he immediately grabbed a few prisoners and tossed them over the cliff.

Pa Pa!

Not long after, there was the slight yet heavy noise which travelled to Leylin's ears.

“Not only that, the stone blades at the bottom must be destroyed, the corpses must also be gotten rid of with some bone dissolving powder.”

Leylin muttered and applied the floating spell on himself, floating down from the cliff like a feather.

When the moon was high in the sky, the blue constellations shone brightly. Only then did Leylin returned to the cliff, his robes filled with traces of grey powder.

The starlight which shone down was constantly absorbed by the Fallen Star Pendant on Leylin's chest, forming a small ball of light in front of him.

[Fallen Star Pendant recharging. Estimated time: 5 hours 21 Minutes!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

Although the might of Magic Artifact were extremely strong and did not need any chanting to activate it, they required to be recharged. After the energy was fully consumed, the Magic Artifact was basically a useless item!

Previously in the secret plane, Leylin concealed his Fallen Star Pendant and let Bosain use their Magic Artifact many times to drain the energy in his Magic Artifact. Finally after engaging in a battle with him, he drained all of Bosain's Magic Artifact energy!

Whenever he thought of the Magic Artifact on Bosain's body which could take on the form of anything, the silvery and metallic "Silver Light" which could attack or defend, Leylin envied Bosain for it.

However, he did not retrieve it from Bosain's body. Instead, he let that Magic Artifact remain inside the secret plane.

Things that belonged to large families, if one were to say that there weren't additional protective measures on them, Leylin would be the first to doubt that statement!

Moreover, he had killed Bosain. This was the genius acolyte in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and one of the successors of the three big families, the Lilytell Family.

Once this incident was discovered, he would naturally face the wrath and revenge of the Lilytell Family.

However, Bosain, fortunately, was killed due to the secret plane's self-destruction. The place where he died was also not in the main world but in a secret plane, which would mean many troubles for the Magi, who excelled in Divination or Prophecy.

“Only that it is still not enough! The methods of Divination Magi are not that simple!”

Leylin's face was extremely solemn. He sat cross-legged on the cliff and picked up several water chestnut grass, forming the shape of a little human figure.

Pu! When the human figure made of grass was tanned, Leylin took out a dagger and cut his arm.

A huge amount of blood downed down, covering the grass doll in red.

Leylin used the dagger to dab on his blood, drawing a strange rune on his forehead.

Very soon, an ancient yet mysterious incantation was chanted by Leylin.

The chant was a tongue-twister and had a metallic ring to it. With the sudden rise and fall in his pitch, the surrounding atmosphere also changed mysteriously.

After the chant, many dense black gaseous bodies were emitted from Leylin.

The gases grew more and more, finally turning into a translucent black shadow, its face similar to Leylin's countenance.

“Go!”

Leylin pointed at the grass doll and the black shadow immediately jumped into it.

The black shadow shrunk a dozen times, entering the grass doll entirely.

As for the grass doll, its face also changed, turning similar to what Leylin looked like.

“Alright now!” Leylin exhaled loudly, before pursing his lips to whistle.

“Gua Gua!” A black raven flew from the nearby forest, landing on Leylin's shoulders.

“Bring it away! The further the better!” Leylin placed the grass doll on the talons of the black raven, before feeding the raven a Magic Crystal.

Hu!

The body of the raven doubled in size, and the wings grew to the span of two to three times. As it flapped its wings it brought a tiny whirlwind with it.

Seeing the raven flying further, Leylin heaved a sigh of relief.

This was a little trick he saw from an incomplete diary in the library, it was said to have an effect to mislead those Divination Magi spells.

Under the simulation of the A.I. Chip, he believed that there would be an effect to a certain extent.

Naturally Leylin used it, hoping for it to stall a little more time for him.

After killing Bosain, Leylin never hoped that he could cover it up completely.

The methods of Magi were extremely strange. Also, as the Lilytell Family was one of the three big families in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Leylin had no confidence of hiding from them at all.

Even with the most foolish method of tracing leads in the world, they would definitely pinpoint all the clues to him.

However, for the inheritance of the Great Magus Serholm, Leylin

had no regrets whatsoever in killing Bosain. Even if it were to repeat the scene, Leylin would still choose to do it again.

What he desired now, was only time!

The external conditions had already been met. To be able to retaliate the chase of the Lilytell Family, he had to advance into an official Magus!

This was the purpose of Leylin trying to stall for time.

Chapter 119: Warlock

“However, there is also good news!”

When Leylin thought about his future developments, he slowly relaxed his muscles.

“Bosain and the other two joined in halfway while travelling. According to Jayden, Bosain even hid it from his family and the academy. Which is to say, the Lilytell Family would only know that Bosain was dead, yet they did not have any idea where he had gone to or who were the people he had met. This is the best possible scenario!”

As for Jayden’s disappearance?

Leylin did not bother with it at all. First of all, Jayden was not killed by him. Even by using Lie Detecting Spells and the sorts, he was not afraid at all. Secondly, Jayden only had a Professor Dorotte behind him. His background was much smaller than that of the three big families. Just based on Leylin’s mentor, Professor Kroft, he could handle this problem.

Leylin gave the cliff one final look, before walking away and never turning back.

At the same time, inside an ancient, stately and eerie fortress.

From one of the rooms, a large roar was heard, “Bosain is dead! The parasite larva on him was not activated too!”

Extreme wrath was detected in this voice, and waves of his voice reverberated throughout the ancient castle.

In the air, there were even many energy waves seen with the physical eye. A rush of horrifying energy wave continuously radiated from the room.

Many menservants and maids on the corridors immediately knelt on the ground, their bodies quivering in fear.

“Call Kleiter here, if he is unable to find out the truth, I will punish and send him to confinement within the Blazing Mines for a hundred years!”

.....

The atmosphere turned gloomy, and the cold wind howled. Not long later, fine raindrops splattered on the ground, giving a damp and icy feeling.

However, Leylin was in a pretty good mood.

At this moment, he was inside a cave feeding a bonfire for warmth. He closed his eyes and thought of the high-grade meditation technique contents.

He viewed this high-grade meditation technique with utmost importance. His path in the future would be significantly determined here.

Moreover, the high-grade meditation technique also had requirements for the acolytes. There must be a certain standard before they could cultivate in it.

Leylin did not want to risk his life only to obtain something which he could not use.

After hastily going through the contents, doubt filled his heart. “Warlock? It’s the same as Branded Swordsman, a branch of the ancient Magi huh?”

Leylin leaned on the warm granite wall, his mind continuously sorting out the information he gotten from the high-grade meditation technique today.

“Kemoyin’s Pupil.” This was the name of the high-grade meditation technique that Leylin inherited from the Great Magus Serholm.

Before the information of the meditation technique, there were several other notes which introduced the existences of acolytes in the ancient past who had advanced to be Warlocks!

These so-called Warlocks were a unique kind of Magi. Through

devouring, copulation or some other methods, they would obtain the bloodline of powerful magic creatures or even the bloodline of creatures from another world. Moreover, they would continuously tap into the power within.

As with Branded Swordsmen, Warlocks were also a sub-type of ancient Magi.

According to the introduction of the Great Magus Serholm, he was originally a Rank 4 Warlock! Moreover, he had unified the whole of the South Coast, leaving behind many undying legends.

Furthermore, according to the legends, Warlocks have a greater innate talent in spellcasting and they completely surpassed a regular Magus of the same rank.

However, if Warlocks were that strong, they would have long since controlled the South Coast and not have that many magician guilds around.

First of all, Warlocks are on the path of bloodlines. Along with the passing of time and the reproduction of seeds, the descendants of these Warlocks will often see a thinning of bloodline, losing the replenishing effect from the bloodline origins. Just this point alone caused the Warlocks to become few in numbers.

Furthermore, a large number of Warlocks had an extremely troublesome malady—Emotions! The Magus World was represented by reasoning. However, due to the effects of the bloodline, Warlocks often suffer from extreme emotional states

and was likely to go to the extremity of any emotion.

Obviously, such a disposition was difficult for Warlocks to survive a long time in this Magus World with the law of the jungle.

However, the Great Magus Serholm came up with a method to curb such an ailment—Serenity Potion!

When a Warlock takes the Serenity Potion, they would calm their inner nerves and retain the reasoning trait of a Magus.

Furthermore, their strong willpower would also allow them to curb the emotional effects of the bloodline.

In the preface of the high-grade meditation technique, there were several types of methods to obtain bloodline, enough for Leylin to choose from.

Seeing this, Leylin had already decided to choose the path of bloodlines and become a Warlock.

Very soon, Leylin frowned again.

“3 levels! Why does the whole of the high-grade meditation technique only have three levels? There are obvious missing parts at the back!”

According to what Leylin gathered, high-grade meditation

technique has the effect of raising the levels of Magi.

Which is to say, once a Magus had completed the meditation technique of that rank, their level will rise automatically. There is no need of complementing with a large amount of resources to breakthrough, nor the use of constructing spell models.

This was because high-grade meditation techniques would naturally form a compatible innate spell and inscribe them constantly with the meditation in the Magus sea of consciousness.

However, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent only had three levels. Which is to say, even if Leylin had finished the cultivation for it, he would advance to the maximum of a Rank 3 Warlock, a little more powerful than a Rank 3 Magus.

It was pretty good as in the South Coast, Rank 3 Magus were extremely powerful existences, like the head of the Lighthouse of the Night who had that cultivation!

However, Leylin was somewhat displeased; he wished to cultivate to the realm of a Rank 9 Magus!

After which, Leylin somewhat scorned himself.

“Even Lord Great Magus Serholm was only a Rank 4 Warlock. The distance to Rank 9 is even further than here to the Milky Way! I should not ask for too much. After all, this can guarantee my path until a Rank 3 Warlock. If it were left to me to break through on

my own, I wouldn't even have the confidence to become an official Magus....”

“Moreover, the Great Magus Serholm was a Rank 4 Warlock. Which is to say, the Kemoyin's Pupil has a latter portion, only that it requires for me to search more about it...”

Leylin resumed his normal mentality and looked at the latter portion of the information. As expected, there were a few vague clues which pointed to the Central Continent.

Leylin had never even heard of the Central Continent before. However, in the Book of Giant Serpent, there were descriptions of it. It seemed to be a haven for official Magus. Not only was the area expanse, but there were also an abundant amount of resources.

Only that to enter the Central Continent from the South Coast, it required a lot of trekking over dangerous domains. If one was not an official Magus, he would definitely die!

Leylin memorised the information and decided that he had to visit there in the future to search for leads on the Kemoyin's Pupil in the future.

At the end of the meditation technique, there was a profound sentence:

“All those who walk on the path of bloodlines will eventually be shackled by the very bloodline itself...”

Somehow, not knowing why, Leylin felt that he heard a distant sigh, but it might have been a hallucination.

However, these words still cast an ominous cloud over his head.

Leylin remained silent, blue light flashing in his eyes, before resuming his original state very soon.

“It seems that there is some flaw to becoming a Warlock! However, this is a problem I’d have to face after a Rank 3 Warlock! I am just a lowly acolyte right now with not even much confidence to advance to an official Magus...”

“Even at the very end, if the path of a Warlock does not let me advance further, I can seek for other methods! At that time, I have at least the strength of an official Magus!”

“As for now, with the strength of an acolyte, there is no chance that I can obtain another piece of high-grade meditation technique...”

Various thoughts flashed in his brain and Leylin’s eyes gradually gleamed in resolve.

“To cultivate in the Kemoyin’s Pupil, one must first have the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent or a subspecies of it!”

Leylin began to ponder over the problems of his path.

“Giant Kemoyin Serpent! It’s a type of ancient creature. There are records of it in the A.I. Chip. As for its subspecies, I have seen two of it before, The Huge Mankestre Snake and the Black Horrall Snake!”

From the Kemoyin’s Pupil that the Great Magus Serholm had cultivated in, it seemed that he was a Warlock who had the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!

As he nurtured various snake species, he preferred to use defense or ambush mechanisms with snakes, so it was completely understandable.

Leylin pondered and withdrew many times from his sack.

A dozen blood coloured rocks and a frozen heart!

These blood rocks were the essence of all the blood from the Black Horrall Snake collected by Leylin. As for its heart, when Leylin was escaping from the Dylan Gardens, he had already harvested the precious ingredient from the corpse of the Black Horrall Snake.

“According to the records of the high-grade meditation technique, I can use this essence and obtain the Black Horrall Snake’s bloodline...”

An adult Black Horrall Snake was a creature that could rival the existence of a Rank 3 Magus, so it fulfilled Leylin's needs completely.

Perhaps, the Great Magus Serholm kept the Black Horrall Snake in the cave to allow his inheritor to use its bloodline.

However, naturally Leylin's ambition was not only there.

"Although the Black Horrall Snake is not bad, it only has a trace of the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Perhaps, I can purify the Black Horrall Snake bloodline and obtain the true ancient bloodline!"

Leylin's eyes spewed fire from it.

Since Warlocks had to tap constantly into the power of the bloodlines, then it was better to transplant a stronger bloodline right from the start.

Leylin only gave it a slight thought, and his inner desires began to boil.

"A.I. Chip! Establish mission, calculate the chance of obtaining an ancient bloodline from the Black Horrall Snake's bloodline!"

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning analysis.]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned, loyally carrying out its duties.

[Scanning blood essence obtained! Composition – Pure Essence: 78.8%, Nutrients: 11.3%, Highly active bacteria: 2.14%, useless impurities...]

A stream of information of the blood essence turned into a chart and appeared in front of Leylin.

Leylin who had the A.I. Chip had the natural advantage in this field!

Chapter 120: Purification

The auxiliary A.I. Chip from his past life had immense memory space and calculating abilities. Furthermore, for it to better aid the researchers, there was even a microscope that could see accurately up to the atomic level.

During his transmigration, it even connected with Leylin's soul, increasing many unfathomable changes.

Now it seems that in the aspect of purifying blood, Leylin had an enormous advantage with it.

After all, the purification of the bloodline was an extremely precise yet tedious process, and this method was the kind that posed the least problem to the A.I. Chip.

“No wonder the Great Magus Serholm had laid the test of horrifying calculation and analysis ability as his final test to obtain the high-grade meditation technique. To Warlocks with a strong ability for calculations, they can research on the bloodlines and unearth the power within!”

Leylin was somewhat enlightened and thought of the few breeding labs that the Great Magus Serholm had had.

“No matter if it was the lab in Extreme Night City or Dylan Gardens, the Great Magus Serholm had always carried out experiments on blending and modulation. Only that it's unclear if

he succeeded in the end...”

.....

A few days later, under the ominous dark clouds looming over the sky, Leylin once again returned to the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“Really... “Leylin looked at the graveyard and academy constructions that were almost repaired fully as he smiled wryly.

Bosain, whom he had killed, was a member of the Lilytell Family, thus boasting a strong influence within the academy.

Although right now it was almost impossible for them to know that it was Leylin who killed Bosain, there was a certain chance of risk.

If possible, Leylin would never want to return to the academy. However, he grasped time to come back was because he had important things to do.

“There is no choice, who asked the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy to have the best resources and experiment labs. I have to hurry and purify the ancient bloodline and gather the ingredients for the Serenity Potion, so I have to come back this time...”

Leylin was confident of his deception. Adding on to the fact that Bosain died inside the secret plane, due to the separation effect

caused by the spell formation, concrete information on his death would have been very difficult for the people in the main world to receipt.

Using the most boorish method of tracing in the physical world required a lot of time.

Also, Bosain and the others sneaked out, so even their families did not know where they were headed to.

Moreover, Leylin had been rushing back along the way. It was to gather all his resources, complete the experiment and leave before the Lilytell Family could react.

“Although there are some risks, according to my calculations and the simulation from the A.I. Chip, I can escape before the Lilytell Family reacts!”

After inspecting Leylin’s pass at the entrance, the Granite Ape that Leylin saw before very soon allowed him to enter the academy that was underground.

After which, Leylin did not even return to his dorm and immediately went to the counter at the resource point, exchanging a large number of his Magic Crystals for resources.

To brew the Serenity Potion and complete the experiment on bloodlines, the items required were a monstrous amount.

Furthermore, many ingredients and items were extremely precious, so Abyssal Bone Forest Academy only would have them.

What made Leylin's heartbeat quicken was that under the current policies of the academy, he could purchase resources that were many times cheaper than the market price.

He had already offended a large Magus family and had no place to hide. He could only continuously raise his strength to solve this problem.

“According to the A.I. Chip, the requirement for a Level 3 Acolyte to advance and become a Rank 1 Magus, is 15 Spiritual Force!”

Leylin thought as he commanded, “Inspect my current status!”

[Mission establishing! Host data gathering in progress!] The A.I. Chip's loyal voice intoned.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.4, Spiritual Force: 16.1, Magic Power: 16 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

Ever since Leylin had used the Blood Vengeance Potion to raise his Spiritual Force to the limits, no matter how much he meditated, he could not increase it one bit.

It seems like the elementary meditation technique that he

received from the academy back then was now obsolete.

In fact, many Magus were in such a situation. Without the high-grade meditation technique, every improvement or advancement required a huge amount of precious resources. Moreover due to the tolerance of the physical body, the demand on its strength was even higher the next time round. Hence, this formed a vicious cycle.

Adding on to the fact that they did not choose their innate spell model correctly, and the spell model needed for the next advancement was also difficult to find, it was such a huge factor that it halted the footsteps of many official Magi.

Hence, in the whole South Coast, newly advanced Rank 1 Magus were the most common. As for Rank 2 Magus like Siley, they were of the upper hierarchy, as with other chairmen of large organisations and academies. As for a Rank 3 Magus, they stood at the peak like a fearsome existence!

However, after obtaining the high-grade meditation technique, Leylin could absolutely catch up to them!

“My Spiritual Force has already met the required value. What’s next is to change the meditation technique and purify the ancient bloodline and try to advance into a Rank 1 Warlock!”

A fiery passion blazed in Leylin’s eyes as he hurried his pace.

After the settlement of the resources, Leylin did not visit Kroft, but only left a message to say that he would enter a very important experiment and required to be in seclusion for cultivation.

After which, he poured all his heart into the experiment lab in the academy.

“This set of apparatus was made with vulcanised glass and is the firmest!”

Leylin looked inside a large experiment lab, his hands touching a set of sulphur-coloured glass apparatus.

“There is also this! A machine that can generate negative energy 300 times faster!” Leylin turned around and looked at two large black coloured instruments on the table.

Beside the black instruments, there was an item that resembled a microscope. However, the multiplier effect could not match up to Leylin’s A.I. Chip.

Leylin had specifically rented this experiment lab. Normally it was only available for official Magi, but he was a potential Magus in the academy, so he had gained the privilege to rent the experiment lab for set period.

The experiment labs that Magi used were naturally better than acolytes’; there were, even more, guarantees in the safeguarding of privacy.

After all, the official Magi were professors that formed the foundation of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Even if it was Chairman Siley, he could not intrude on the privacy of these professors. Those who were able to become a Magus often had their secrets and trump card. Any form of detection or prying into them was considered as an outright provocation. Even Chairman Siley could not resist against the power of all the professors if they were to unite forces!

Of course, under the consideration of being cautious, Leylin let the A.I. Chip scan this area several times. He also used many detection spells, and even some that fended against the outside world.

“Let us begin!”

Leylin nodded his head and took out a small box from his robes. After opening it, a dozen blood red rocks lay there, emitting a mystical energy wave constantly. These waves were then absorbed by the dispel formation that Leylin set up, not leaking one bit of it at all.

“I haven’t conducted such an intricate experiment for a long time, I hope my skills aren’t rusty!”

Leylin’s expression was extremely solemn as he picked up a purple potion...

Afterwards, Leylin spent his day inside the lab. Even the daily

nourishment needs intake was relied on potions.

Under the stupendous microscopic ability of the A.I. Chip and consultation from the Book of Giant Serpent and Kemoyin's pupil, the progress of bloodline purification was rather smooth.

However, one day Leylin was compelled to leave the lab.

“What? Bicky has been held captive by her own family?”

Dark circles appeared on Leylin's eyes, and there was a stubble under his lips. It seemed to be somewhat decadent.

However, a pair of eyes gleamed brightly, looking at the girl in front of him.

The girl had a head of blonde hair, her body contours delicate. Her lips were thin and had a layer of luscious red lipstick applied, adding a more matured look to her appearance.

Leylin recognised this girl. She was called Hong, a simple one-syllabled name. It seemed to be the style of the hometown where she came from.

Moreover, she was Bicky's good friend and had seen Leylin during several encounters.

“Why?” Leylin very soon retracted his expression and a calm

expression was formed.

However, under the mask of this serenity, it made Hong shudder slightly.

“It’s said that Leylin is not only a genius in Potioneering, but even your cultivation in magic also has a high talent. You have advanced to a Level 3 Acolyte before twenty, obtaining many favourable impressions from professors...” Hong bit her lips, as envy and jealousy unconsciously filled her insides as she thought of the news she heard of Leylin.

However, this feeling was suppressed very quickly.

Hong combed her loose hair and smiled wryly, “Because she stole a precious Rainbow Potion from her family...”

“Rainbow Potion?! That was a rare potion that had vanished. It is known to greatly enhance the effects of Grine Water. The Rainbow Potion which could complement the advancement of an acolyte to an official Magus?”

Leylin tapped his fingers on the circle desk in rhythm, the scented tea in the cup showing ripples.

He had heard of Bicky’s family before. They had a rather long standing history, their ancestors also had a period of glory, but they seemed to fall after that.

It was different with the Lilytell Family and other large families, Bicky's family was only a small one.

As for now, the elders were only of Level 3 Acolytes, upholding the Magic Artifact and treasures from their ancestors which could temporarily have the might of an official Magus as self-defense.

It can be seen that such a family did indeed have a hope in raising another official Magus, to continue the glory of their family.

As for Bicky, as one of the heirs that had been fully nurtured by the family, not only had she betrayed her family, but she had also stolen the family's treasure. Even if she was killed on the spot, it was not a strange thing.

“Bicky is only a Level 2 Acolyte, did she steal it for Fayle then?”

Leylin thought of the crux of the matter and questioned immediately.

As expected, anger filled Hong's face. “It is for Fayle! Originally, Bicky planned to elope with him after the theft, but Fayle had been misleading her all along!”

Hong was fuming, apparently feeling unjust for her friend. “After obtaining the Rainbow Potion, Fayle immediately left her behind and joined the Redbud Flower Family!”

Chapter 121: Legends

The Redbud Flower Family was one of the three big families behind Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the same as the Lilytell Family.

This was a family that had official Magi among every generation and could activate the battle prowess of those Magi in times of war. It was completely on a different level than Bicky's falling family.

With the protection of the Redbud Flower Family, Bicky's family could only grit their teeth in defeat as they would never be able to recover the Rainbow Potion.

"As for Bicky, she was captured by the experts in her family. It's said that she would very soon be put on trial and charged guilty for betraying the family.

Hong's eyes turned red, her tears almost falling.

"Hu!" Leylin exhaled a long breath.

Bicky had a crush on Fayle, he knew it since the first day in the academy. Moreover, he also knew that Fayle did not have much moral values.

When Bicky told Leylin that Fayle had already accepted her to be his girlfriend, Leylin felt that there was a conspiracy behind it, yet

he had no way of reminding her.

Fayle, who had gathered enough contribution points in the secret plane, had exchanged it for the Grine Water. Adding on to the Rainbow Potion, his chances of advancement to a Rank 1 Magus were extremely high!

As for Bicky's family, it was akin to losing one official Magus. Moreover, they had to suffer even the loss of Bicky, who was an acolyte.

"A rather good scheme. A pity that his character had somewhat fallen to the lowest. If I see him next time, I'll just kill him!"

Leylin thought indifferently.

Bicky was his good friend. Moreover they had a one night stand, so he had to try to rescue her. Moreover, as long as it was within his capabilities, he would help her seek revenge.

However in Leylin's heart, there wasn't any feeling of humiliation or disgrace that Bicky had given him.

Looking at it in detail, Bicky was Fayle's girlfriend both in name and in reality. In fact, it was Leylin who did the dishonorable thing and let Fayle wear a green hat [1], so naturally he did not have to feel humiliated or anything of the sorts.

However, the crucial point now was to save Bicky.

Professor Kroft was an excellent candidate to save her, but Leylin very soon dismissed that thought.

The relationship between the professors and acolytes in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was only based on mutual benefits. The acolytes would fork out Magic Crystals and services. In return, the professors would give them knowledge.

If it were Jayden and Torash, highly talented individuals who had gained their mentor's nurture, it was still alright. However, Bicky who had a rather average aptitude only had a simple relationship with her mentor.

It was as if after she had graduated, the relationship between her and her mentor would wane unless she advanced into an official Magus.

Moreover, Kroft was the professor of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. When entering the academy, he had already signed a contract not to interfere with the internal matters of other families.

As for Bicky's family, it was one of the many families under the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's banner.

Hence, Kroft could not take action as he would dishonor the agreement.

After drinking the somewhat cooled down tea on the circular desk, he slowly spoke under the anticipatory gaze of Hong.

“Due to an important experiment I am unable to leave, but I will write a letter. Please revert it to the elder behind Bicky’s family. ”

The experiment of purifying the bloodline had just entered its most important juncture.

If not for Hong telling him the news of Bicky, Leylin might not even have taken the time away from it.

However, he could not leave the lab for too long either.

Compared to Bicky, Leylin’s impending doom was even greater. He had to advance into a Rank 1 Warlock in the shortest possible amount of time, to better deal with the threat from the Lilytell Family.

Furthermore, the Lilytell Family could trace it back to him any moment. Along with the passing of time, this possibility can only grow bigger. He had to purify the blood before the Lilytell Family discovered anything, and find a safe place outside the academy to complete his most important advancement!

This matter concerned his life and death! Comparing the weight of this matter, Bicky’s issue could be put aside first.

Leylin reasoned that he was a genius acolyte in the Abyssal Bone

Forest Academy that had a huge chance of advancing into an official Magus.

As for Bicky's family head, he was only a Level 3 Acolyte. In the Magus World, the prerequisite of association was to have similar levels of strength! Hence, towards Leylin's words, the other party would definitely give it some consideration.

After hearing Leylin's words, Hong's eyes dimmed. She straightened her body and almost left the seat immediately.

It seems that she thought that Leylin only wanted to gloss over this matter on a superficial level.

As a matter of fact, that was the most common practice of acolytes. Hong was already mentally prepared, but she still felt a little frustrated.

“On the letter, I will earnestly request for the head not to proceed with the trial and also to leave Bicky's source of Spiritual Force intact, not causing harm to it.

The source of Spiritual Force was the most basic foundation of magicians which was the sea of consciousness and the Spiritual Force.

Once this source was to be wasted, the magician would be crippled. This was often the methods of families executed on those members who had betrayed them.

“And in return! I promise to compensate for the missing Rainbow Potion!” Leylin’s final words made Hong’s eyes gleamed immediately.

“Thank you! I am really so thankful...” Hong was too excited that her speech turned incoherent.

If it was just a simple request, the other party might not give Leylin any face at all, as they were both Level 3 Acolyte and the head were borne from a Magus family.

However, with the promise of compensation, it was a different case.

After all, even if they killed Bicky now, there were no benefits to the family at all. If they were only to keep her in captive, there was even the chance of receiving compensation for it!

All logical magicians would definitely know what to choose between the two.

“Bicky and I have the same mentor, so it’s something I should do!”

Leylin smiled and got up.

After his experiment, he would immediately try to advance. Once

he succeeds and becomes an official Magus, his authority would immediately change.

At that time, if he tries to rescue Bicky, it would be less troublesome.

To tell the truth, the price of a Rainbow Potion could be easily compensated with what Leylin had now. Not to mention the peddling of potions, just based on the few precious herbs he grabbed in Dylan Gardens, each and every one of time had a price that was several times of the Rainbow Potion.

However if he were to just take the money and redeem her, he would easily be labelled as an idiot who had more money than sense. Leylin decided that there was no purpose in him being talked of as a fool.

Under the combination of logic and benefit, he chose the way that would be least consuming for him.

“I have sought out many a person, but only you, Leylin, helped me. Bicky would definitely be happy to have a friend like you!” Looking on, Hong’s relationship with Bicky seemed rather good.

“If there are no other matters, then pardon me for taking my leave first!”

Leylin smiled like a gentleman, leaving his seat elegantly.

Bicky's matter was only a small surprise to Leylin. After leaving the lab to settle this issue, Leylin once again buried his head in the experiments.

Three days later, Leylin looked at a vulcanised crystal test-tube with an engrossed expression.

Inside the test-tube, a layer of purple, red fluid had already occupied more than half the space within. Moreover, there was effervescence in it, continuously emitting tiny bubbles, as if having its life.

“This is from all the essence from the Black Horrall Snake, adding on to the special blood purification apparatus using the heart as a primer. After the microscopic abilities of the A.I. Chip coupled with magic spells to continuously purify it, I have finally obtained half a test-tube of this ancient bloodline!”

A dreamy expression could be seen on Leylin's eyes as he muttered.

Just by holding onto the test-tube, Leylin felt a tremendous force continuously emitting from the test-tube, radiating out to its surroundings.

“It is indeed the bloodline of the ancient creature—Giant Kemoyin Serpent!”

Leylin asked the A.I. Chip, “How is the sorting of information

concerning the Giant Kemoyin Serpent?”

These formidable creatures of ancient times would only be briefly mentioned in very few documents and tales of bards. There were many misconceptions about them, so what Leylin had the A.I. Chip do was to sort out the real content of the data on the Giant Kemoyin Serpent.

After all, this was his only choice!

As for other bloodlines of other snake species, how could it be gotten that easily? Any creature with a trace of ancient bloodline could command a frightening price. Moreover, Leylin was not an official Magus yet, so many channels could not be used.

[Beep! After 3465 comparisons, omitting 139 false information, 45 repeated information, the main content has been sorted.] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

[Giant Kemoyin Serpent: Ancient creature, reaching the length of 5000 metres in an adult phase. It is known to have a powerful body and mysterious spellcasting abilities. In the adult phase it can go against Rank 4 Magus and is the destroyer of many cities in legends. Main elemental properties: Darkness, with secondary element of Fire! In the legends, the Mother of Ten Thousand Snakes had failed to gain control of the Shadow World, hence bringing her children to the Purgatory World. From then on, her descendants all has the element of Fire.]

[Sources of origin: Ancient Creatures Illustration Handbook, The

Travels of Grey, Diary of the Great Magus Serholm, The Book of Giant Serpent....]

“Darkness Element and Fire Element?” Ecstasy filled Leylin’s face.

Although after transplanting the bloodline, the Warlocks would naturally add on the elements of the ancient creature, it was definitely the best to have their innate affinity to be compatible with the ancient creature.

Even after changing bloodlines, the original qualities of the magician’s body was extremely important. It was decided from the start of birth and was extremely difficult to change in the future.

“A.I. Chip, bring out my elemental affinity chart!”

In front of Leylin, a projected image appeared.

The longest bar was dark coloured, representing the main elemental affinity that Leylin had: Darkness.

Afterwards, it was followed by a fiery red bar half the size of the Darkness Element. This was Leylin’s secondary elemental affinity, Fire.

At the back, there was a green bar and few other colours, representing the affinity of other elements.

However, these bars were much shorter than Fire by a dozen times. If Leylin chose to cultivate mainly with those elemental energy particles, then he might not even be a Level 2 Acolyte by now.

Which is to say, Leylin's affinity in the Darkness Element was highest followed by the Fire Element. The others could be treated as negligible.

“The properties of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent is actually compatible with my affinity. According to the introduction of the Kemoyin's Pupil, under these circumstances, it can have a multiplier effect on the magician's affinity, which is also the best choice!”

Leylin could not mask the overjoyed expression he had on his face.

Note: [1] Wearing a green hat means to be cuckolded.

Chapter 122: Attempt To Breakthrough

Leylin immediately left the academy on the second day.

He had managed to purify the ancient bloodline after using the facilities in the academy. Even the ingredients for the Serenity Potion were mostly gathered, so Leylin could not think of any other reason for him to stay.

Moreover, with the passing of time, the probability of the Lilytell Family uncovering the truth would only grow bigger. Leylin had no means at all to resist them within the academy.

He also had another level of consideration. What he was about to advance to was a subtype of the ancient Magi—Bloodline Warlock!

This was definitely differently from other official Magi. During the advancement, it was possible to have unique energy waves that were radiated. If chairman Siley or a magician at that level were to find out, his ending would not be any good.

For safety reasons, it was better to advance outside.

Before leaving, Leylin carefully cleansed all traces of his experiments inside the experiment lab. No matter how hard others might try to inspect, they would not be able to know what he had been doing inside the lab.

After giving one last look at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Leylin left.

He had a premonition that after leaving this time, it might take a very long time before he returned here again.

After thinking of the future happenings in the school, it would definitely be very intriguing! Leylin grinned as he urged his handsome steed to leave the Abyssal Forest.

Grey Stone City was a city that was relatively close to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and there weren't many inhabitants there. Moreover, there weren't any magicians staying here.

Ever since Leylin had left Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, he had been pressing on continuously until he got here, even buying a two-storeyed flat in the heart of the city.

Around the apartment, there was a circle of greenery. Even though it was the heart of the city, there was a feeling of serenity.

On the side of the greenery were a row of small shops. Occasionally, there were mercenaries with steel blades walking together with women who wore extremely revealing clothes.

Leylin looked on for a while, before closing the windows.

This villa was the location that he had chosen to advance to a Rank 1 Warlock. It was also protected with a defense spell

formation, so the average person would definitely not be able to enter.

Furthermore, there were a huge number of regular humans residing within the surroundings of the villa. As long as they did not meet any insane Dark Magi, their safety in the area was considered rather well.

Leylin did not unreasonably hope that by taking all these people around him as hostages, the other party would let him go. However, as long as they were somewhat apprehensive to cast a large area of effect spell, it would be an extremely great thing for him.

Sua! Leylin shut the windowsill.

The thick sackcloth blocked the sunlight from entering the room, and there was a faint layer of scarlet light appearing in the middle of the room.

The entire second storey of the villa was already under Leylin's control by this point. Moreover, there was a layer of a mysterious spell formation inscribed on the floor.

These runes were writhing as if they were made of little snakes, as they continuously headed towards the scarlet red light.

The light crisscrossed, forming a spell formation.

As for the centre of the formation, there was a pure black stone platform. Many scratches were cut into it with a small knife, taking the appearance of a very strange picture.

“The bloodline transfer formation is finally complete!”

Leylin massaged his temples, and a blue glow could be seen in his eyes. “A.I. Chip! Scan my stats! Bring out my current condition!”

[Beep! Gathering Host data!]

Very soon, the A.I. Chip brought out Leylin’s stats. [Beep! Leylin Farlier. Level 3 Acolyte, Knight. Strength: 3.1, Agility: 3.3, Vitality: 3.4, Spiritual Force: 15.5, Magic Power: 15 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: In the middle of cultivating in Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique, Spiritual Force in purification!]

Back at the academy, after using the A.I. Chip to analyse the Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique completely, Leylin had begun to adjust his own meditation technique and practice the high-grade meditation technique.

The Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique that he had obtained had a total of three levels. With each increase in level, the technique would automatically advance the Warlock’s rank.

Previously, Leylin did not have any sort of snake type bloodline, so he could not even cultivate fully in the first level.

However, the high-grade meditation technique was indeed something good that had been previously concealed by the various organisations. After cultivating a good part of the first level and converting it into a meditation technique, Leylin realised that his Spiritual Force had undergone a purification process.

Many impurities within his Spiritual Force, which had been boosted in the past by potions, were now expelled during the process of meditation.

Leylin looked at his Spiritual Force stats. Due to removing the previous impurities, his Spiritual Force had decreased by 0.6, but it was all worth it.

As an acolyte, it was the foundation on the path towards being a Magus. The more solid one's foundation was, the further one could walk down the path of a Magus in future.

Leylin had previously sought a rapid way and consumed potions in vast quantities. This had left many of the residues of those potions accumulated in his body. Even his Spiritual Force was affected, becoming somewhat heterogeneous.

If such a situation were to occur constantly, one day, his path in advancing would become completely blocked.

As for now, under the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique's influence, his Spiritual Force was continuously being purified, heading towards a better development.

However, no matter how hard he tried, without the ancient bloodline, he would never be able to cultivate fully in the first level and advance to a Rank 1 Warlock!

“The requirement for an acolyte to be able to advance is a Spiritual Force of 15. The requirements for Warlocks and official Magi are almost the same, with only the additional requirement of a bloodline!

Leylin inspected the spell formation again.

“A.I. Chip! Scan and inspect the bloodline transfer spell formation again!”

Following his command, a strong glow of blue light appeared in Leylin’s eyes as it scanned the formation.

This concerned Leylin’s future, so he had to be particularly cautious.

Leylin had confirmed that everything was in order and that he had not missed anything, but did not, however, begin to rush through the bottleneck.

First, he sealed off the entire second storey, walked towards a restaurant outside, and ordered a lavish meal filled with delicacies.

Afterwards, Leylin wore commoners' clothes, and walked several times around Grey Stone City, looking at the motions of the regular humans as they worked, rested, and played, feeling their joy and sorrows.

Finally, Leylin returned to the villa and sat cross-legged on the bed, yet did not begin to meditate.

He recalled his memories about his previous life, the experience of transmigrating to the Magus World, the life he had in the carriage party, entering the academy, and his various expeditions.

The appearances of George, Kaliweir, Merlin, Kroft, and Bicky all surfaced in Leylin's mind.

Several hours later, Leylin's recollections of his memories scattered. What took its place was only calmness and indifference.

With the serenity of his heart, for the first time, Leylin did not meditate, but immediately fell asleep.

Only when the sun rose on the second day did Leylin get up, feeling refreshed, as if every cell in his body was filled with energy.

After activating all of the defense mechanisms, Leylin wore a loose white robe and went towards the second storey.

After giving the formation and potions one final check, a resolved expression appeared within Leylin's eyes.

“Let us begin!”

Pa! The buttons on the white robes came undone as it slid to the floor.

Leylin was stark naked as he walked towards the centre of the scarlet formation, sitting down on the black stone platform.

The black stone platform was made of bright black stones. A feeling of chilliness emanated through Leylin’s skin, giving him goosebumps.

Leylin picked up a black dagger, the tip of the blade giving off a sharp coldness to it.

Leylin’s expression turned vicious as he cut himself on his body.

Pu! Blood gushed out.

His expression was unchanging, and the hand that held the dagger did not quiver. In a mysterious sequence, the black dagger began to cut all over his body.

Every time the black dagger drew across Leylin’s body, it would leave a bloody wound from where blood continuously dripped.

At the very end, from his stomach to his forehead, there was a

mystical triangular shaped rune on Leylin's body.

The blood that poured forth continuously from his skin looked extremely eerie and mysterious.

Di Da! Di Da!

The blood that flowed down from his body was collected by the grooves on the black stone platform, beginning to converge while following the grooves, and flowed towards the formation below the platform.

Bang!

Under the influence of the blood, the scarlet spell formation radiated a dozen times brighter.

The powerful flash of light brought forth a strong energy wave, which continuously radiated to the four walls of the villa.

At this moment, on the four walls of the villa, magical blue runes began to absorb the energy waves that leaked from the spell formation.

The scarlet coloured turned brighter and brighter, before finally engulfing the entire room.

In this blood red world, a layer of black smoke suddenly

appeared, continuously changing shape in midair.

“Abiding by the ancient contract, my strength will now be that of the bloodline!

After seeing the black shadow, Leylin moved his lips and chanted in the Byron language.

Weng Weng!

After Leylin had chanted the incantation, the thick black smoke attached itself to Leylin’s body, and the triangular shaped wounds began to gleam in a grim black light.

Leylin shivered as an extremely strange iciness began to charge to his nerves.

After it had frozen to the extremes, a burning sensation seemed to set all of the cells on his body ablaze.

[Warning! Warning! Mysterious energy discovered infiltrating and beginning to consume copious amounts of the Host’s lifeforce. Use the Host’s own magic power to dispel?]

A row of words in red appeared.

“Deny!” Leylin gritted his teeth.

Along with the continuous burning of his body, he could distinctly feel that his Spiritual Force was increasing at a crazy rate.

It was constantly drawing nearer to the boundary of an official Magus.

However, if he were to use his life force for that, it might have been very likely that before he reached the bottleneck of an official Magus, he would have first burned to a shrivelled corpse!

“It’s now!”

Leylin picked up the vulcanised crystal test tube containing the Kemoyin bloodline and poured the purple-red blood on his wounds.

Hua La La!

The purple-red blood landed on Leylin’s body. It began to wiggle, as if having its own life, and turned into an innumerable amount of little snakes that drilled through Leylin’s wounds.

“Arghhh!” Leylin’s eyes were popping out as the muscles on his face contorted.

An extremely frightening agony constantly grated on his nerves, even turning his vision blurry.

At that moment where he lost consciousness, Leylin only knew to follow the method of the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique, as he began to attempt to break through to a Warlock.

Chapter 123: Rank 1 Warlock

After Leylin had fainted, the red light in the second storey of the villa did not disappear, but gradually became more intense.

Time passed, and very soon, it was the morning of the second day.

The scarlet light grew stronger, and even the blue runes on the wall produced creaking noises as if they were unable to endure any longer.

Ping Pang! With sounds like the shattering of glass, the blue runes were finally dispersed and the red light shone through the walls and onto the villa beside it.

“Look quickly! What’s that?”

The unusual condition of the villa was finally found out by the passersby. A bald man who looked like a merchant began to point at Leylin’s villa as he shouted.

Following the direction to where he pointed, one could see that the second storey of the villa was currently radiating scarlet rays of light.

The red light was so dazzling that even the sun could not hide its presence.

With the continuous emission of rays of light, many regular humans around Leylin's villa mysteriously fainted.

Peng! The bald merchant who had pointed at Leylin's villa now had a frightened expression on his face as if seeing some natural nemesis. Both of his hands gripped his chest where his heart was, his eyes turning white as he fell onto the ground.

With the continuous expansion of the light rays, the number of passersby who fell to the ground increased, eventually extending to the whole street.

The citizens screamed and cried out in fright. A horde of them squeezed and jostled out of the city as if there was some scary demon behind them.

.....

Leylin had a very long dream.

In his dream, he was an incredibly tiny snake that constantly hid and snuck around, learning the methods of hunting prey.

The surroundings were up in flames. What surrounded him were simply lava and black boiling stones. The sight ahead was also a fiery-red.

As for him, he gradually grew up, going from sneaking around to avoid enemies, to being a natural predator at the top of the food chain.

No matter how many ferocious or horrifying creatures there were out there, they could only accept death in front of him while he swallowed them.

Leylin constantly changed his territory. One day, he arrived at another location.

That place was filled with the same species as him. Deep in his heart, there was a feeling of longing, which made him press on and climb deeper in.

As he went deeper in, Leylin could feel that the aura of the stronger members of his species increased. Just the aura radiating off of some of them was enough to leave Leylin with a feeling of suffocation.

Moreover, the surrounding flames and sulphur rapidly disappeared. What took its place was pitch-black darkness.

This darkness had countless shadows, yet it gave him a sense of security as if he was returning to his parent's body.

In the centre of the darkness, he could finally see.

What he saw was a giant ball of snakes, which seemed to cover

the sky's horizon. It seemed to be a planet in the universe, eternal yet mighty. Every giant snake in the ball had strength surpassing his imagination.

“Hissssss!”

Leylin flicked his tongue out, letting off a hiss that was only produced by snakes.

The giant ball of snakes opened, revealing the figure of a black haired woman.

This black haired woman had an exceptionally charming feature. Her eyes had vertical slits for pupils and looked as if they were made of a ceramic glaze that would let one see through to its bottom. She also had hair that writhed continuously, as if they were tiny snakes.

The hair, which seemed to look like snakes, also gave her another layer of mysterious allure.

“You have come!” The woman opened her mouth, her voice ringing within Leylin's heart. The language spoken was extremely strange and Leylin hadn't heard of it before, yet he still understood it.

Just as Leylin was about to speak out and ask a question, a flash of bright light appeared in his vision.

He reached out to shield from the light and realised that his hand was that of a human's. Only then, he realised that he had woken up from his slumber.

“I recall it now; I'm Leylin, who was completing the ceremony of transferring a bloodline to break through a bottleneck.

The life in his dream, which had seemed to be the reality, appeared in Leylin's mind. For a moment, it made him think that he wasn't human.

It seemed as if his reality had had been obscured by a veil—nothing could be seen clearly.

Slowly, large amounts of memories surfaced in his mind.

“The villa has been destroyed?” Leylin looked at the construction which had collapsed, and the sunlight, which bore through the holes in the ceiling, finally noticing the difference.

With Leylin at the centre, the surroundings were in a mess. Apart from him, there were no other living organisms.

“It seems like the energy absorption spell has failed and copious amounts of radiation leaked out...”

Leylin stroked his chin, suddenly thinking of something. “Warlock?! What happened to my advancement?”

At this moment, he was stark naked, but Leylin could feel an intensifying strength under his skin. Moreover, his Spiritual Force had significantly increased from before.

Leylin, somewhat unsettled, delved into the sea of his consciousness.

At this moment, his sea of consciousness was filled with a scarlet light, turning the space into a patch of redness.

At the centremost was a spell formation that had an octagonal crystal, floating quietly in the space.

The power that he felt from inside to outside continuously emanated throughout his whole body.

After he sensed the innate spell inside the crystal, Leylin grinned as he knew he had successfully advanced into an official Magus!

“A.I. chip, bring out the previous monitor record!”

[Detected traces of suitable composition for Host’s absorption!
Determined to be the blood essence of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!
Beginning absorption]

[Blood essence burning! Host Spiritual Force increases significantly!]

.....

[Successful completion of the first level of the Kemoyin's Pupil! Host advances into a Rank 1 Warlock! Various stats have been greatly boosted!]

[New scanning of Host's data...]

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 27.9, Magic Power: 27 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

The A.I. Chip duly reflected the data in front of Leylin.

“There is actually such a great increase, no wonder I feel different. Even my physical figure has been enhanced and my strength has increased!”

Leylin clenched his fist and punched, emitting a shrill air explosion in the air.

“Right now my body is not inferior to that of any powerful creatures!”

Leylin looked at his chest. The appearance did not change much, only that his skin looked even glossier. His abs were well defined,

yet not too protruding, maintaining a fine balance.

“However, such a huge disturbance will definitely alert nearby magicians. It’s better to leave earlier!”

Leylin casually picked up a black robe in the mess and put it on. Seeing the mess, he smiled wryly.

About the advancement to an official Magus, the A.I. Chip had no better research materials. Although Leylin did his best to lay the energy absorption spell formation, it still shattered under the sheer amount of energy emitted.

As for official Magus, even if they restrained their radiation, regular humans would not be able to withstand it.

How would Leylin be able to restrain himself during the advancement? Hence, it resulted in such a scene.

After figuring out the details, Leylin shook his head and kept a few important items from the rubble before placing them all into a knapsack.

Bang!

Leylin exerted strength and made a deep impression on the ground. His body then turned into a dark flash and left the area with a speed several times faster than before.

Some time later, a cawing of a bird was heard.

A snow white giant bird landed, with two official Magi on its back. What they wore were the clothes from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

“We’re here, the place where we sensed the energy waves!”

A female Magus touched the rubble on the floor and shut her eyes to sense for something.

“I sense a tremendous Spiritual Force and also a blood-reeking aura. The feeling that it gives me slightly deviates from an official Magus...”

“This is very normal!”

A cloaked male came together with the female Magus. Under the cloak was the voice of a male.

“Choosing to advance here would only mean that it’s a wandering magician! Furthermore, they have obtained the inheritance from a remnant!”

The cloaked man grudgingly shrugged his shoulders. “There are many remnants in the South Coast, who knows what period the inheritance that the magician obtained came from. He seemed to

have inherited some sort of ancient cultivation path, so his aura having deviations from the norm is not out of the ordinary. However, the energy waves have obviously reached the might of a Rank 1 Magus, so this matter should be treated seriously....”

After hearing the words of her counterpart, the woman’s face turned solemn.

In the South Coast, various guilds and magisterium had mostly controlled the advancement of acolytes to protect their unique positions.

However, in such a vast domain, there were always many of these lucky wandering acolytes who had obtained the inheritance or remnants of others and advanced successfully.

Although it wasn’t very often, these sorts of things occurred once every couple of years.

The approach of the powerful organisations in the South Coast was very clear. They would rope them in if possible, and if not, they had to coerce these lucky people into not spreading their knowledge about advancement!

As for the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, which was the closest to Grey Stone City, they were naturally the people in charge of enforcing this law to the wandering magicians in the Poolfield Kingdom.

Very soon, the cloaked male and female magicians began to investigate. However, all of the eyewitnesses had more or less died. As for those who were lucky enough to survive, they seemed to be in trauma. No matter what, they could not remember Leylin's appearance. Even retrieving their memory was meaningless, so the two investigators could only leave.

At this moment, in the nearby dim forest close to Grey Stone City, Leylin stopped.

“After running for so long, I am actually not showing any signs of exhaustion. My vitality, which has reached 8.5, is indeed extraordinary!” Leylin could not mask the joy on his face.

The current Leylin was a complete beast in the form of a human. No matter how hard a greatsword would be sent chopping towards his body, his muscles would still most likely wedge it within, and hold it in place.

“According to the Book of Giant Serpent's description, usually, acolytes who advance into an official Magus would only get a great increase in their Spiritual Force, which would also form their innate talent. Warlocks, however, are different. They would be able to unearth the power of the bloodline, and obtain the strengthening of both their Spiritual Force and their physical bodies.

Leylin's vitality right now had already surpassed many Grand Knights. Even if it were the Branded Swordsmen in the legends, they would most likely only be equal to him.

Chapter 124: Innate Spell

“I am almost used to the familiarity of my physical body, but I wonder what kind of innate spell did I obtain?”

After a long run, Leylin casually did a few standard swordplay movements. After having some understanding of his reinforced body, he shifted his thoughts to other matters.

According to the Kemoyin’s Pupil meditation technique and the introduction of the Book of Giant Serpent, Leylin had more understanding about the innate spell of Magi.

As far as regular Magi were concerned, most of them would choose a rank 1 defensive spell model and complement it with Grine Water to make a breakthrough.

Magi, who advanced with this method, had the smallest potential. In future, if they were unable to obtain more precious resources and a Rank 2 spell model that were suitable for them, they would have absolutely no hope of advancing.

As for some large organisation heads or first-rate Magi Families’ core members, they could practise the high-level meditation techniques.

Each level of the meditation technique could correspondingly promote the rank of a Magus. Moreover, the innate spell model found in each level is fixed.

In other words, it would be easy to guess a Magus' innate spell just by looking at a part of the high-grade meditation technique that the Magus practised.

However, Warlocks were different; they were literally “dependant on the heavens to have bountiful crops”.

[TL note: (看天吃饭) – Depends on the heavens to have bountiful crops refers to luck.]

The formation of innate spells was heavily dependent on luck, purity and concentration of the blood essence of that bloodline.

Leylin knew his luck was only so-so, but he had got the blood essence of an ancient being — the Kemoyin Serpent! Thus, it should be highly compatible with this high-level meditation technique, and would thus be good for him.

After putting a thread of his Spiritual Force into the crystal, almost instinctively, Leylin knew the details of his own innate spell.

Eye of Petrification... and... Scales of Kemoyin!

Two innate spells! That's right! There were two innate spells!

“Haha...” Leylin did not contain his laughter and let out a hearty

laugh.

Concerning Warlocks, in the process of forming their innate spells, there was another scenario that could happen. That only occurs when the blood essence of the bloodline was extremely rich, almost the same as the origin of the bloodline. In such circumstances, there would be an additional innate spell.

Of course, the two innate spells Leylin obtained were Rank 1 Spells, not that he immediately advanced into a Rank 2 Magus.

Inside a Rank 2 Magus, they would have two innate spells too. However, one was a Rank 1 Spell while the other was a Rank 2 Spell! As for now, Leylin only had two spells that were of Rank 1.

Only after advancing to a Rank 2 Warlock, the Rank 2 innate spell would be formed!

As for the might of the Rank 2 Spells, they would naturally overpower the Rank 1 Spells.

Even so, having an additional spell will allow Leylin to be proud and unyielding amongst Rank 1 Magi.

This was equivalent to having an additional spell amongst the magicians of the same level, so naturally he had a great advantage.

Very soon, Leylin looked through the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique and the Book of Giant Serpent, obtaining

more information on those two innate spells.

“Eye of Petrification: A petrifying gaze will be emitted from the eyes, equivalent to the might of a petrification spell. The target will immediately be petrified. For more powerful beings, they would become rigid temporarily! Consumption: Spiritual Force 1, Magic Power 1!”

“Scales of Kemoyin: A layer of scales will form instantly providing a layer of defense. Physical defense: 25 degrees! Magic defense: 27 degrees! Consumption: Every 5 hours Spiritual Force 1, Magic Power 1!”

The consumption was calculated by the A.I. Chip. Leylin looked at it blankly.

According to the estimations of the A.I. Chip, these two innate spells were rather outstanding even amongst all the Rank 1 Spells.

If it was formed through a spell model, each of the spells required consumption of at least 10 points of Spiritual Force and Magic Power.

As for now, the consumption was one-tenth of before. This was the advantage of innate spells!

Furthermore, Leylin also felt that he could only spend a consumption of 2 points in Spiritual Force and Magic Power to have the Scales of Kemoyin always in effect.

At this moment, he roughly knew what the defensive forcefield, which always hovered around Magi, was.

Those were the innate defensive spells that they had activated around them perpetually. Any attacks, as long as they do not break through their innate spell defense, will never be able to cause them any harm.

“These two innate spells, one is for offense, and the other is for defense. With them, my current abilities, even amongst official Magus, can be considered excellent!”

Leylin estimated his might calmly.

As he chose the path of Warlocks which had good meditation technique and bloodline, the benefits he obtained right after an advancement greatly surpassed that from regular Magi.

As for those newly advanced Magi, they were not Leylin's opponent at all. Only those who remained for some time inside the Rank 1 domain, those with their Spiritual Force and Magic Power almost reaching the limits and having recorded a large number of Rank 1 Spells, would be a force to be reckoned with for Leylin.

As for Rank 2 Magi? Right now Leylin was far from being their opponent. He did not even have much confidence in fleeing from them.

Every level between Magi had the difference like that between heaven and earth. It was not something that the bloodlines or better meditation technique could solve.

However, Leylin was extremely pleased with the present outcome.

After all, he had just advanced, and his path in future was broad.

With a joyful heart, Leylin took off the black robes that he put on and changed into a new set of clothes as he began to rearrange the things that he had brought along with him.

After wearing black robes, Leylin immediately hung the Fallen Star Pendant on his neck again.

“The defense of this pendant is rather low now! Most of the Rank 1 Spells are above 20 degrees. Any attack from an official Magus will be able to break the defense of this Fallen Star Pendant!”

“A.I. Chip! Establish mission and calculate the probability of improving the Fallen Star Pendant!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning analysis...] The A.I. Chip carried out its mission, and also gave a stream of information for Leylin to check on the progress.

After advancing into a Rank 1 Warlock, the A.I. Chip that was connected to Leylin's soul also obtained large benefits. Its

calculation abilities were evidently more powerful than before.

After changing his robes, Leylin walked towards a small stream and looked at his reflection.

In the clear waters, a handsome, black-haired youth looked back at him, his body emitting a strange charisma.

“My hair, why has it turned black?” Leylin looked at his reflection, suddenly recalling the black haired snake woman inside his dream.

“Could it be...That the dream was not just an illusion?”

Leylin faintly guessed that it was the external changes caused by the changing of bloodlines.

Moreover, Leylin realised that there were some slight changes to his face.

Leylin had a rather average countenance at the start, at most having the looks of a youth. As of now, his eyes were brighter than before, his brows sleeker and the face turned more handsome than before. Combined with the dignity as a Warlock, there was a mysterious charisma to it.

“In legends, not only did Warlocks have powerful spells and physical bodies, each and every one was a handsome man or a beauty. So, this was all influenced by the bloodline!”

Leylin looked for a while more, before continuing with his preparations.

He was a Warlock, not someone who relied on his face to live, so being handsome or ugly had no difference.

.....

Sapphire Lake, situated at the eastern part of the Poolfield Kingdom, was an extremely beautiful lake.

During winter, when the sun shines down from the sky, looking at it from a vantage point the azure lake seemed to be crystal clear like sapphire.

Not only that, there were even a special species of Blue Ice Fishes living in the Sapphire Lake. Its taste was extremely fresh and succulent. If acolytes were to include it in their diet often, it would have a slight boost in their meditation.

Hence, this area was controlled by a Magus Family.

Tyler Family was the Magus family which controlled the Sapphire Lake from nearby, to which Bicky belonged.

On this afternoon, there was a visitor inside the Tyler Family's ancient castle.

“This is the ancient castle of the Tyler Family?”

Leylin looked up at the large stone castle.

The Tyler Family’s castle was erected on a cliff close to Sapphire Lake. Around it there was even a layer of poisonous cloud hovering around it, so very few people were able to come here.

Leylin sized up the giant castle. The large yellowish cliff had the depression and precipitation that withstood the test of time, silently standing here, bringing on a gloomy and declining feeling to it.

At the front of the castle were two fire breathing statues.

“The Tyler Family was known to have a period of golden age; one can tell just by looking at the outline of this ancient castle. A pity...”

Leylin touched the two lifeless statues and sighed.

Magus families which were slightly more powerful can lay a defensive spell formation around their fort. At the very least, the door guards should at least be guarded by magical creatures.

As for now, Leylin only saw two stone statues, and there was no aura of radiation coming from the ancient castle.

With Leylin's strength as a Rank 1 Spell right now, he could completely demolish this castle.

It seemed like the news of the Tyler Family of not having a Rank 1 Spell was true.

After lingering around the front of the castle for a while, the people inside it were shocked.

Boom! Huge stones axles revolving sounded, and the two sides of the door opened slowly.

"May I ask...Who are you looking for?"

A chirpy birdlike girl's voice sounded. From behind the door, a green haired girl roughly 8 to 9 years old peeked out.

"I am Leylin, looking for your family's head!"

Leylin caressed the little girl's hair.

"My Lord! I'm sorry my Lord, this is my daughter, I did not pay attention to her for a while..."

At this moment, a middle-aged man with the energy waves of a Level 2 Acolyte finally appeared from the door, looking at Leylin in fright.

“Kushy! Hurry up and bow!” The middle-aged man hugged and placed the girl behind him, making her do a bow.

From the middle-aged man’s knowledge, although Leylin seemed rather young, he had the terrifying energy waves which had far surpassed himself.

“He’s at least a Level 3 Acolyte!”

He would never be comparable to a Level 3 Acolyte that this young man was.

Moreover, the Tyler Family was in decline for a long time already, so they did not have much backing.

Chapter 125: Tyler Family

“Hi! I’m Leylin, here to meet the head of the Tyler Family!”

Leylin repeated his intent.

“Leylin? Leylin!” The middle-aged man repeated the name before his expression changed suddenly, before asking in a more respectful tone, “May I ask if you are the Leylin from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

“That’s right!” Leylin affirmed.

The smile on the middle-aged man’s face grew in splendor; it seemed more forced than good-natured as he said, “Welcome to the Tyler Family! I will immediately announce your arrival...”

After learning of Leylin’s identity, this man’s manner changed.

The man had heard Leylin’s distinguished name many times; not only was he Bicky’s junior, and Professor Kroft’s accomplished student, as well as a genius in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, rumor has it that he has astonishing talent in Potioneering and advanced to Level 3 Acolyte, with potential to become a Magus before turning 20 years old.

However, the most important thing in the letter was, Leylin had promised to compensate the damage caused by Bicky.

Thinking of this, although the man appeared deferential on the surface, there was a trace of greed within the nervousness he felt.

“I feel very upset regarding the matter of Miss Bicky...”

The man squeezed out some tears as he said, “Previously, Miss Bicky was a very obedient child, but now...”

“I am well aware of all this, bring me to see your family’s head!”

Leylin gaze turned frosty, and the middle-aged felt a chill run down his spine. He felt as if he were being stalked by an extremely dangerous beast.

“I shall go at once! I shall go at once!”

Following which, he took hold of his daughter and immediately vanished behind the door.

More than ten minutes later, Leylin had already been received within the great hall of the castle and was in the presence of the Tyler Family’s patriarch.

“Distinguished guest! I am Tyler Family’s patriarch — Johnson Tyler! I welcome you to the Tyler Fort, and I hope that your stay here will be pleasant.”

The patriarch of Tyler Family was known as Johnson Tyler. He was an old man wearing a formal black attire and had a head of lustrous, silver hair which had been carefully combed. But his eyes appeared a muddy white.

[Johnson Tyler. Level 3 Acolyte. Strength: 1.9, Agility: 2.5, Strength: 2.0, Spiritual Force: 13. Magic Artifact on target's body can unleash attacks up to three times, each producing a force of more than 20 degrees.]

A trace of blue light, invisible to others, flashed through Leylin's optic nerve, as the A.I. chip scanned and recorded the information regarding the Tyler Family's patriarch.

Then, Leylin's nose twitched; he had smelled a deteriorating and decaying odor emitted from that Patriarch's body.

It was clear from the many wrinkles on this patriarch's face that this man did not have many years of his lifespan left.

Too weak! This kind of strength, in front of Leylin, was the same as grinding an ant to dust.

Leylin swept a glance from top to toe of the patriarch and found that the Magic Artifact he wore was somewhat decent.

If a Level 3 Acolyte were allowed to pay an extremely high cost, they could attain a Magic Artifact suitable for a Rank 1 Magus. It seemed that this was something that was passed down the family.

However, from what Leylin saw, instead of one hit, he needed just two to take Johnson down.

The disparity between their strengths was too high, and Leylin did not feel inclined to gossip with him.

“My purpose for coming here is: as stated in my letter from before, I will pay a sufficient cost to compensate for the Rainbow Potion, and you all must pardon Bicky of her crimes.”

Leylin ignored the angry look upon the patriarch's face and found a seat to sit down on.

Seeing that Leylin did not show any courtesy, a trace of fury flashed in the eyes of Johnson Tayler, but he quickly suppressed it.

But within his mind, he felt aggrieved, as if a large stone had been placed in his heart. Since when could a Level 3 Acolyte act this brazenly inside the Tyler Fort?

However, Johnson had, after all, had plenty of experiences during his span of life. Moreover, he could always detect a trace of danger from Leylin.

The many years of training made Johnson put a smile on his face as if he was not even the teensiest bit angry due to Leylin's actions.

“The Rainbow Potion is a precious ancient treasure, right now many of its ingredients are hard to find...”

“I will give the Grine Water in exchange for it!”

“Wh... What...” Johnson stammered immediately, and an unbelievable expression filled his face.

“I said that I will give the Grine Water for it! That would be enough to exchange for the Rainbow Potion, would it not? After all, the Rainbow Potion’s effect is to complement the success rate with the Grine Water. When comparing the treasures, the Grine Water is much rarer!”

Leylin interlaced his fingers as he smiled, immediately throwing out a temptation that Johnson could not refuse.

The composition and effect of the Grine Water had long since been analysed by the A.I. Chip during this period.

Only that the brewing process required a lot of ingredients to carry out. Leylin did not have that many ingredients on him, so he could only make do with the analysis.

According to the A.I. Chip’s calculation, the effect of the Grine Water was to burn the life force of the acolyte and breakthrough the Spiritual Force bottleneck.

This method had very evidently had a huge backlash and after

effect.

As for Leylin, although he burnt a little of his life force during his advancement, it was very soon replenished by the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's blood essence.

Leylin guessed that it was the tremendous vitality found within the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's blood essence that substituted his own life force that was burnt during the advancement.

Hence, after advancement, right now Leylin had at least 500 to 600 years of lifespan according to the A.I. Chip.

As for normal Rank 1 Magus, even if they used many methods to prolong their life, they would at most live up to 200-300 years old.

Moreover, after Leylin advanced to a Rank 1 Warlock, the Grine Water that had effect for acolytes was not of much use to him anymore.

Leylin had planned to exchange it for some resources, but now it seems that using it as compensation was not a bad idea too.

As expected, after hearing the words 'Grine Water,' this patriarch Johnson began to pant.

There hasn't been the birth of an official Magus in the Tyler Family for over 300 years!

Moreover due to the decline of the bloodline and lack of resources, the Tyler Family members had very little chance of advancement. They did not even have a Level 3 Acolyte where the academy chairman could fawn upon to sign a contract. So naturally they had no way of obtaining the Grine Water.

As for other families, they were extremely pleased to watch the decline of the Tyler Family before stepping in to swoop all of their resources. Thus, there weren't any good-natured people to aid them.

Although the Rainbow Potion was good, it was not rarer than the Grine Water.

After all, the Rainbow Potion's effect that could raise the success rate was rather hard to determine. It would at most raise it by 20%.

However, the Grine Water was different! With it and an outstanding acolyte, the Tyler Family could definitely try to cultivate their own official Magus! They did not have to be restrained by other contracts!

However, although this wily fox Johnson was extremely willing, he still put on a difficult expression.

“When Bicky stole the Rainbow Potion, she even ruined some treasures...”

Leylin shook his head. He had already predicted such a scene before his advancement.

Even if he was willing to compensate, he would definitely be ripped off.

As he was merely a Level 3 Acolyte, yet the other party was from a Magus family. Even if it was a declining family, their power is still to be reckoned with for any regular acolytes.

If Johnson did not ruthlessly try to knock off a huge amount from Leylin, then he would have lived to this ripe old age in vain.

“Enough!” Leylin’s face darkened.

At the same time, a mighty Spiritual Force energy wave emanated from his body.

Hu Hu Hu! As if a strong gale had swept past, the cloth on the tables and curtains on the windows let off a rattling sound.

The mighty Spiritual Force of an official Magus mercilessly swept through the fort as frightened wails were heard.

Many youths in the Tyler Family fainted on the spot, without making a sound.

They were all regular humans without any resistance to Magus’s

methods.

As for those Level 1 Acolyte and Level 2 Acolyte, they were not any better off. Their faces were reddened as they tried their best to support themselves and not fall onto the ground.

“Of... Official Magus?!”

As if seeing a ghost, Johnson’s mouth gaped widely, large enough to stuff several duck eggs inside.

After which, fright surfaced on his face as he immediately knelt onto the ground, “Most respected Lord Magus! Please be appeased and let my family members off!”

Seeing that Johnson, who had wanted to rip him off just a few moments before, was now kneeling on the floor like a frightened rabbit, Leylin harrumphed coldly. However, he still retrieved his Spiritual Force.

Leylin only did a slight test earlier with some restrain. If not, the regular humans in the fort would have all died from the radiation.

Johnson shuddered as he knelt, his inner heart wildly howling, “This Spiritual Force definitely belongs to an official Magus! It can’t be wrong! He... He is only 18 at most!”

Once he thought of having offended such a genius official Magus, Johnson desired to cry yet there were no tears. He even had the

notion of committing suicide.

“Bicky! Yes! His relationship with her is good!” Johnson’s eyes lit up as he suddenly thought of this point.

“Quick! Quick bring Bicky here! No... Maid! First, bring her for a bath...”

After seeking approval from Leylin, Johnson scampered off and ran into a large hall, screaming at an acolyte that was sprawled on the floor.

After which, Johnson put on a flattering smile as he bowed towards Leylin. “My Lord, do you have any other orders?”

Looking at his shameless behaviour, Leylin was somewhat speechless.

After all, this was Bicky’s family; he could not do things to the extremes.

After Johnson accompanied Leylin in trepidation for another dozen minutes or so, Leylin finally got to see Bicky.

Bicky had apparently gone for grooming; her hair even had water droplets which had not been dried properly. She wore a white gown, her expression, however, did not seem very well, having huge eye bags and dark circles around her eyes.

“You... You’re Leylin?!”

Bicky looked at Leylin who stood there unyieldingly and then at her family head who was smiling obsequiously, suddenly feeling dizzy as she tried to connect the dots...

Chapter 126: Clayde

Several minutes later, within the large hall.

There was no one else apart from Leylin and Bicky.

Leylin and Bicky sat facing each other, only separated by a small, white round-table. There were many appetizers and aperitifs arranged on this table.

Bicky was holding a piece of sponge cake within her hand, but it appeared she had no appetite.

“Is it true? How did you actually get promoted to a level 1 Magus this soon?”

Bicky, still appearing absent-minded, picked up a steaming drink and took a gulp.

“Congratulations, Leylin! Also, thank you for coming over to help me.”

“Don’t mention it. After all, you are my friend.” Leylin smiled as he said.

“That’s right! You are a good friend.” Bicky unconsciously repeated whatever Leylin said, still looking dazed.

“What do you plan to do from now on?” asked Leylin, anxiously, seeing Bicky acting in this manner.

“In the future?” Bicky bowed her head as in deep thought and said, “I do not intend to return to the academy. I shall go and travel and perhaps one day; I will return to my family...”

Saying this, she looked eagerly at Leylin, “Maybe I can become your follower?”

After becoming an official Magus, a person can usually accept a few followers and agree upon a soul contract where the followers would pledge their life and loyalty to their master. In return, based on their accomplishments, the masters would have to provide their followers with knowledge and resources to the best of their abilities.

And in the outside world, a follower can be the representative of their master to a certain extent.

“This will not do!” Leylin refused Bicky’s request after thinking for a while.

“I have a big problem on hand. Besides all that...”

Even though Leylin did not speak it out, Bicky understood that followers must have certain strength, which could, later on, be of help to their masters

Now, Leylin was already a Magus. With his talent, this was only the beginning of his journey.

And because of this, Leylin's followers' aptitudes should not be lousy. Otherwise, further cultivation would be useless.

Bicky's spiritual aptitude was not very good—till now she was still only a Level 2 Acolyte. Leylin reckoned that, if she did not experience any strange events, the status of a Level 3 Acolyte would be the highest she could achieve in her lifetime, which would not be of much help to him.

“If it's like this! I merely made a passing remark...” Bicky laughed forcefully.

Seeing the way Bicky behaved, Leylin suddenly felt he had a headache coming on. He said, “Regarding Fayle, have you decided what is to be done?”

“About him...” Bicky remained silent for a moment.

A good while later, she calmly spoke, “He entered the Purple-Gold Flower Family and now has both Grine Water and the Rainbow Potion. I am afraid that he has already broken through and become an official Magus. What can I do?”

“At an appropriate moment, I will make him pay the price.”

Leylin still wished to offer some hope and guarantee to Bicky.

Certainly, when and how he will take revenge is up to him to decide. In any case, Leylin himself wasn't prepared to be riddled with troubles to kill the guy who cheated Bicky.

Even if Fayle had advanced, he was now only a newly-minted Magus—which was definitely not a match for Leylin.

Moreover, there were many Rank 1 Spells contained within that Book of Serpent, some which can kill people without a trace of sound. Outsiders will definitely not be able to connect the death to Leylin.

Bicky's eyes reddened as tears the size of beans rolled down her cheek.

“Thank you! Thank you! Leylin...”

She cried as she pounced into Leylin's arms. Leylin's expression was tender as he hugged her with his left arm, with the right hand patting her gently on the back.

After which, Leylin made a strange gesture with his right arm where Bicky did not realise it.

A greyish black gas was pulled out from Bicky's body and held firmly in Leylin's hands.

Several hours later, after refusing Johnson's invite to stay, Leylin left the Tyler Fort on his own.

Before leaving, he still went according to the contract and gave the Grine Water to the Tyler Family as compensation.

In exchange, Johnson pardoned Bicky's crime in front of all the members, even with the intent of making her the successor immediately.

Leylin walked a good long distance before looking back at Tyler Fort. With his vision, he could see a smoky white figure standing alone in front of the Tyler Fort, maintaining the gesture of sending Leylin off earlier.

"I hope the potions I gave her will be of some use!"

Before leaving, Leylin even gave Bicky some of his modified Azure Potion and told her clearly of its uses. And like before, Leylin told a lie, saying that he managed to chance across them and made a purchase.

Although he had the strength of a Rank 1 Warlock now and could definitely protect a potion's formula, he still wished to avoid trouble.

To him, Bicky and the other acolytes in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy were only part of his journey to climb to the top.

He would slightly halt in this part of the journey, but not forever.

He still wished to climb further to greater heights, to see and accomplish more things.

Perhaps, after he had climbed to the highest point, he would then reminisce of his past and return to it.

But before that, he will never leave behind any regrets!

“The issues are almost settled. Maybe I should leave the Poolfield Kingdom and travel around the South Coast?”

The Lilytell Family was a large family with a strong backing. Leylin’s might could not even be compared to a fraction of it.

Leylin did not assume that after advancing into a Rank 1 Warlock, he would be able to eradicate this family.

Moreover, at the very end, the Chairman Siley of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy will definitely appear. This was a Rank 2 Magus! An existence Leylin had no chance against right now!

As the representative of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, Siley will definitely take action!

After thinking for some while, Leylin felt that deserting the

school was his best choice.

As for whether his professors and friends would be implicated?

No matter if it was Kroft, or the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy members, or even Nyssa and the other acolytes, they were all members of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

As one of the three big families, the Lilytell Family had to maintain its decorum of nobility and exercise the compliance of rules.

Towards this, the noble family amongst regular humans which Leylin was born in were not much different.

Moreover, even if the Lilytell Family did not want face at the end and used other people as hostage to capture him, so what?

Would Leylin be this foolish to walk right into this trap?

Although Leylin would offer his help for Bicky and the rest of them, it always came with a prerequisite. That he had enough power to do it and it would not bring him much trouble.

Once exceeding this threshold, Leylin would somewhat become cold-blooded.

To put it in another way: even if the Lilytell Family went to the

Chernobyl Islands and used the Farlier Family as a hostage to threaten him, Leylin would not give two hoots about it.

At the very most, after his power had increased, he would return to exterminate the Lilytell Family, thus avenging the Farlier Family.

Leylin thought of his plans as he rode on a horse along the road.

Thud Thud!

With the fast trampling of the horse hoofs, they ran past a forest.

As for Leylin, he had been squinting his eyes. At this moment, they were suddenly opened, and a streak of toying expression appeared on his face.

Pu!

Just when the horse was about to leave the forest clearing, several arcs of light shot out from the trees.

Ka-Cha!

With a huge boom, the fine steed was severed into a few pieces, bleeding out a huge amount of blood and intestines.

At that moment when the light hit his horse, Leylin used his palm to press on the horse, grabbed his knapsack and jumped away from it.

When both of his feet landed on the ground, he realised he had been surrounded by a group of black-robed figures.

They all gave off the energy waves of Level 3 Acolytes. A few of them also had the aura of Magic Artifacts radiating from their bodies. As for the one in the centre, his strength had already reached the standard of an official Magus!

The clothes on these black robed figures had an image of several crows stitched on with a gold lining on it.

“Such a getup? The Academy’s Enforcement Squad?”

Leylin already guessed who they were, and calmness showed on his face.

“Leylin! Someone has accused you of killing your fellow Level 3 Acolytes. Bosain, Jayden, Shaya and Roth. Come back with us for your trial!”

The scarred faced leader did not hide the killing intent in his eyes.

Leylin understood that the Lilytell Family had finally investigated the matter previously, and even push the blame of the

other Level 3 Acolytes death onto his head.

“And if I say no?”

The people who surrounded Leylin were not only Level 3 Acolytes but also an official Magus. Before his advancement, he could not even escape such a formation. But now, Leylin had an impulse and was rather eager to battle.

“Defying the Enforcement Squad! Kill on the spot!”

The official Magus, Scarface, unleashed his killing intent and waved his hands.

Many incantations sounded, and various energy waves were emitted.

Dazzling fireballs! Jade green corrosive acid! Purple blades, as well as several other Magic Artifacts were used, appearing above Leylin's head.

Bang!

A huge pit appeared on where Leylin stood. On the sides there were still flames burning, the surroundings littered with broken bones and mutilated corpses.

“He's already killed?” An acolyte behind Scarface spoke.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, the acolyte’s brains exploded with the white brain juices and blood splattering on the ground.

“Ted?!”

The group members behind him shouted with faces of disbelief.

Sua! Sua! Sua!

Arrows were immediately shot off, causing the Level 3 Acolytes behind the official Magus to have their heads explode.

“This is? Illusionary Spell?” Scarface shouted and immediately chanted an incantation.

Sssii!!

Ear piercing wails continuously sounded, and the air in the surroundings seemed to undulate like waves in the water.

The void seemed to be ripped open like the curtains from a theatre. Scarface looked at the surroundings. The Level 3 Acolytes were all laying on the ground with their eyes shut tightly, not knowing if they were still alive or dead.

However, at this moment, the official Magus did not pay any more attention to them.

“You... Advanced?” Scarface had a shocked expression, “You actually... Advanced into an official Magus at 18 years old!”

“What a frightening talent. A pity you have offended the Lilytell Family, so you’re destined to die here!”

Scarface licked his lips, revealing a bloodthirsty expression. “Let me introduce myself. Clayde is my name, Clayde Lilytell!”

Chapter 127: Defeat

The moment Clayde declared his name, Leylin gave out an order silently.

“A.I. Chip, Scan the target in front of me!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, scanning in progress... A defensive forcefield around the target detected, unable to collect data!]

As expected, the A.I. Chip still gave the same answer.

“Which is to say, if I broke through the layer of forcefield, I’ll be able to scan it?”

Leylin used an immense force on his legs and charged towards Clayde like a bullet.

Bang!

Leylin’s right hand bulged, and the strength of his fist reached 7.1 degrees, smashing onto Clayde’s chest.

The sound like a hammer striking at leather sounded. With a huge spark, Clayde was sent flying backwards.

Leylin stood at where Clayde stood originally as he looked at his

arm.

Black scales appeared above the skin. On the scales, there were tiny traces of flames continuously flickering.

[Data of target's defensive forcefield obtained, comparing to database!]

[Determined target's innate spell as high-temperature forcefield, creating a flame of 24 degrees to burn objects within its vicinity!]

[Target's forcefield damaged: 4.6%. 20 more strikes are estimated to break the defensive forcefield!]

The A.I. Chip reported to data to Leylin.

“Cough cough...”

At this moment, Clayde who was lying on the ground got up. There was soot on his somewhat dirtied face.

“What tremendous speed and strength! A pity that you only advanced not too long ago, so how many Rank 1 Spell could you have learnt? Two? One? Or do you only have your innate forcefield?”

Clayde patted his chest and yelled.

Often Magi, who just advanced were in their weakest stages, not to mention memorising a few Rank 1 Spells. More often than not, they could not afford a single use scroll or Magic Artifact either.

After Clayde had finished yelling, he chanted an incantation immediately.

The energy particles in the air changed visibly, shining a dazzling yellow light.

“This might, at least 20 degrees...”

Leylin’s expression turned solemn. Right now his Kemoyin’s Scales resistance was only at 27 degrees. It was considered pretty good amongst newly advanced Magi, but it could not fend off all of the Rank 1 Spells.

Only by continuously tapping into the strength of the bloodline, the Kemoyin’s Scales would become stronger.

As for now, once the opponent’s attack exceeded 27 degrees, it would immediately break through his forcefield.

“I can’t let him cast any spells!” Leylin’s pupils contracted

Crash! The black light flickered, and finely articulated scales surfaced on his body, even his face was included.

In an instant, Leylin was covered by a layer of snake's scales. He right now looked half snake and half human.

The blackness of the scales had an ancient aura and reflected a cold, glossy light which sent Clayde's heart racing a little faster.

“Such a defensive forcefield? So strong!”

“Die!” Leylin shouted, and he moved quicker than before, charging towards Clayde.

Clayde snorted, and a layer of green light appeared on his body which turned into thorns as they blocked Leylin.

Bang! Bang!

Leylin's expression did not change as he swung his fists. After two punches, the thorns shattered.

After covering himself with the Kemoyin's Scales and coupling it with his Strength, Leylin was now like an ancient creature, with an aura that was unstoppable.

Clayde face turned rather unsightly after seeing Leylin breaking through the thorns like wild grass.

“You damned worm! What other methods you have, use them all now!”

Leylin howled and felt every drop of his blood being set ablaze. It made his appetite to battle even more intense than before.

“Damn it!” As Clayde chanted, he kept on changing positions. Moreover, he even activated several Magic Artifacts to block Leylin from advancing.

Although the might of these low-grade Magic Artifacts were not strong and mostly restraint type, breaking through them still required some effort.

After Leylin broke through another layer of ice, Clayde finally finished his incantation of a Rank 1 Spell. An enormous blue fireball was sent flying towards Leylin.

Boom!

After the heat wave had dissipated, the mud around the area melted, creating a large pit.

“Haha... No one could survive after being hit by my corrosive fireball!”

Clayde laughed heartily. The joy of killing a genius early in developing stages swelled in his chest.

However, Clayde’s expression very soon changed and he

hurriedly retreated several steps, as if he saw something unfathomable.

“How... How’s this possible, he’s actually still alive?”

In the sea of blue fire, a human figure parted the flames and walked out from it.

At this moment, Leylin’s clothes were thoroughly razed to ashes, revealing his scaly body. The A.I. Chip’s warning continuously rang within his ear.

[Host has suffered an energy attack! Element: Fire, Acid. Estimated power: 20 degrees. Actual power: 26 degrees. Host’s innate spell, Kemoyin’s Scales, was activated! Energy consumed: 34%. No harm dealt directly to Host!]

“It’s actually an attack of 26 degrees. Just one more degree to breaking my defense!”

Leylin had some lingering fear before it manifested into a stronger killing intent!

Bang! His figure flickered and appeared right in front of Clayde. The fist covered with scales punched Clayde’s chest with a tremendous might.

Crash! A bright red flame rose from Clayde’s chest, engulfing Leylin’s fist within.

Bang! Clayde's face turned red as he was sent flying backwards.

Leylin stepped forward, ignoring the flames on his body as he throttled Clayde.

“Run! Why don't you run again?”

Leylin's expression turned malevolent, ramming fists after fists on Clayde's body.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Massive explosions sounded continuously, and the earth quivered as if there was an earthquake.

Finally, after some time, Clayde cried out, and the flames on his body disappeared.

[Target's defensive forcefield broken, acquiring data...]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned, bringing Leylin, who was somewhat frenzied back to his senses.

“What happened? I was actually this impulsive and reckless?”

Thinking of how he did not dodge or block as he smashed his

opponent's defensive forcefield, cold sweat trickled down Leylin's forehead.

Normally he would have never acted that way. Not to mention the final barrage of attack like a madman was not his way of handling things usually.

[Clayde Lilytell. Strength: 4.5, Agility: 3.7, Vitality: 5.6, Spiritual Force: 31. Elemental Essence Conversion: Fire! Progress: 30%...]

Clayde, who was lying on the ground, had his data extracted and sent to Leylin.

“Elemental Essence Conversion? No wonder his acidic fireball was so strong!” Realisation appeared on Leylin's face.

After advancing into a Rank 1 Magus, if one wanted to advance again, the basic conditions was to complete the Elemental Essence Conversion!

At this time, the importance of having an affinity for elements was finally shown. If one does not choose the highest affinity element to cultivate in, it's impossible to have the Elemental Essence Conversion progress to get over 80%. Which is to say, they would never be able to advance into a Rank 2 Magus!

Furthermore, with the increase in Elemental Essence Conversion, it would improve the might of spells of that particular element.

Originally Clayde's acidic fireball only had a power degree of 20. However, after the 30% Elemental Essence Conversion it reached 26 degrees, almost breaking Leylin's defenses.

Moreover, the multiplier effect could only be applied on one's chosen element affinity. For instance, Clayde's fiery spell could have a 30% multiplier, but the spells of other elements would remain the same. In cases such as Water or Ice Elements, the power might even be reduced.

However, why would Magi gifted with the affinity of Fire element even use Water and Ice spells?

Blue light flashed in Leylin's eyes continuously. This was the first report of data he obtained from a Rank 1 Magus. It could aid his understanding towards himself, complete the database and even compare the stats to a Warlock's.

“You... Kill me now! The Lilytell Family will never let you off!”

When the innate defensive forcefield of Magi was broken, they would also suffer damage on their sea of consciousness. At this moment, Clayde was already near his last breath.

“Why do I suddenly feel like the villain?”

Seeing Clayde, who put on a ‘loyal and unyielding’ expression, Leylin wanted to laugh.

“You wish for death? It’s too early for that!”

Leylin forcefully chugged a potion down Clayde’s throat. Clayde’s eyes turned white immediately, and he fainted. There were even some forbidden runes appearing on his body which isolated the branding of spell formation on his body.

After hastily cleaning up the area and packing his spoils, Leylin picked Clayde up and left the area.

With the Vitality of 8.5, even if Leylin were to run for a day he would not be exhausted. The reason why he chose to ride a horse previously was just for convenience.

After running wildly for several li, Leylin then had the notion of checking his body status.

It worried him that he lost his control in the battle earlier.

“A.I. Chip! Bring out the data monitored earlier and investigate the cause of losing control!” Leylin managed to simmer down only after sitting in a refreshing stream and cooling off.

[Beep! Mission establishing! Bringing out monitored data!] The A.I. Chip intoned icily, not bringing any trace of emotion.

[14 Hours 23 Minutes, abnormal activities observed within Host.

Blood flow increased by almost 45%, activity of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent blood essence significantly increased!]

The A.I. Chip reported the series of data to Leylin. Through a comparison, there was a strange stimulant released by the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's bloodline during the battle earlier. It was similar to doping, and the stimulation caused Leylin to lose his rationality.

“This is the origin of the Warlocks' emotional aftereffects?”

Leylin muttered, immediately asking, “A.I. Chip, bring out the best solutions to solve this!”

[Beep! Method 1: Forsake the Giant Kemoyin Serpent! Method 2: Use the Serenity Potion! Method 3: ...]

Very soon, the A.I. Chip presented the possible solutions to Leylin.

Chapter 128: Fayle

“The ingredients needed for Method 3 and above are too precious. I can’t even get them now!”

“Right now the Giant Kemoyin Serpent’s bloodline is already fused with my body and even the soul. Forcefully removing it would mean that I will demote from a Rank 1 Warlock. I might even lose my life, so this is impossible!”

“It seems like I can only hurry and brew the Serenity Potion!”
Leylin’s face was solemn.

He long since gotten the formula and even gathered the ingredients in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Brewing the completed potion was only a matter of time.

He thought he could rely on his willpower to overcome adversities. However, the emotional fluctuations had perplexed Warlocks for hundreds of thousands of years. It was something that could not be easily overcome with mere willpower.

Leylin was always proud of being a rational person. A circumstance where he could not control things was tormenting for him.

After which, Leylin looked at a nearby cave and gave a cold smile.

After stripping Clayde of his belongings, he trapped Clayde, who was unconscious, in a cave.

Leylin was somewhat anticipatory on the information about the Lilytell Family.

Even though he suspected that Clayde has some sort of tracing spell on him, Leylin still decided to grill him.

As long as he acts fast enough, Leylin predicts that he can leave before Clayde regains full consciousness.

Moreover, the enemy merely assumed Leylin to be a Level 3 Acolyte; they would never anticipate that Clayde would fail. However, Clayde will never have the chance to be assigned to such an easy task in the future.

.....

After a few hours, Leylin retrieved what he wanted and left the area.

Nothing was left of Clayde's presence in the area except for a pool of yellow pus.

"I never thought that Bosain's backing would be this powerful. He was the only grandson to an elder who had reached the requirements of advancement by having an Elemental Essence Conversion of 80% and above..."

Leylin pondered on the latest developments as he hurried along his way.

Potion Masters crafted different types of potions. Leylin accumulated an assorted bunch of torture methods from the experiments in Extreme Night City. Leylin tested these torture methods on Clayde. Very quickly, the official Magus was driven to near insanity, letting the cat out of the bag in the process as he begged for a quick death.

According to Clayde, Bosain's grandfather was a powerful elder of the Lilytell Family and also a magus that Clayde was serving.

This was the reason why he was able to command the Rank 1 Magus.

After eliminating the linchpin of the enemy and Clayde, Leylin knew that the powerful elder's hate for him grew by the day.

However, there was still good news at the end.

Because of selecting the head inside the Lilytell Family, the internal conflict in the Lilytell Family had reached a critical point. The various elders were not affiliated with each other; thus, Leylin only needed to worry about escaping from Bosain's grandfather.

However, the audacity of Leylin to kill the enemies' linchpin magus has angered all of the clans in the family and they will

certainly not mind dispatching of Leylin if it was convenient.

Alone, Leylin stood no chance against the powerful clans

Leylin took little time to realise that his best option was to escape

The Poolfield Kingdom was Abyssal Bone Forest Academy territory, which was sort of Lilytell Family's gathering grounds. The more to the east, the more obvious it gets.

The region to the north was filled with unspeakable dangers. Leylin decided that West was the way to go. He ploughed through the Zither Moon Mountain Plains and entered the vicinity of the Sage Gotham Hut

The two forces just had a war, where they were irreconcilable like fire and water.

In the vicinity of the Sage Gotham Hut, the influence of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was definitely the weakest.

However, Leylin was not planning to stay for long in the vicinity of Sage Gotham Hut. Although they would definitely be willing to rope in an official Magus and even put the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy at a disadvantage, Leylin had never planned to be a pawn for them.

The whole South Coast was still big! Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and Sage Gotham Hut only belonged to the remote area

on the eastern side of the south coast, like the rural area.

After passing through the Inlan Dukedom controlled by the Sage Gotham Hut and passing through the Great Canyon Margaret and traversing through a dozen more kingdoms, he reached the central area of the South Coast.

It was said that the Light Magi in this area held the highest power and could live in harmony with regular humans. Massacres and battles seldom occurred here.

Leylin's plan was to continue his progress in this area.

Although he only needed to meditate the high-grade meditation technique to advance, it did not mean that he had no need for resources.

Rather, it was just the contrary, no matter if it was for Elemental Essence Conversion or the decreased time between meditations, Leylin required resources, lots of magical resources!

At the same time, he required huge quantities of potions and to obtain enough gold for it.

All these required a distribution centre to collect the ingredients.

The largest markets in the South Coast were in the central region, which was overseen by the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and other large magisterium.

As he thought of Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, Leylin recalled George.

It was a youth who set off at the same time as him, finally entering the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower for his studies. In a flash, five to six years had passed. George had a fourth-grade aptitude, so it was very likely he had already advanced into a Level 3 Acolyte.

“I wonder how they are now.”

Leylin muttered as he sped up his pace towards the Zither Moon Mountain Plains.

Bang!

A huge cave immediately crumbled into a landslide, showing the apparent rage of the person who struck it.

Under the rubble, the figure of an old man in silver white armour could be seen.

There were some strange metal ornaments on this old man's face, his eyes showing his wrath.

“Clayde... Clayde was actually killed too!”

“I will definitely not let you go!” The old man gritted his teeth,

the veins on his forehead bulging.

.....

Fayle's frame of mind was somewhat good the past few days.

Especially when his servants and acolytes called him; Lord Magus Fayle', he would often have some smugness from it.

Fayle did have the ability to be arrogant.

Before the age of 30, he already advanced into an official Magus! This degree of progress even shocked his mentor.

Fayle enjoyed giving this astonishment to others.

Moreover, with his title as a genius, the Purple-Gold Flower Family took its initiative to rope him in, offering him an attractive contract.

The restraints from the spirit contract were much looser than those given by the Academy.

Although he lost some freedom, it was insignificant compared to the knowledge of advancement and a Rank 1 defensive spell model.

Without these two items, he would never be able to advance into

a Rank 1 Magus; maybe to add one more item—Rainbow Potion!

Fayle immediately thought of Bicky after recalling the Rainbow Potion. “I guess that fool has already been killed off by her family?”

He smirked in disdain.

Previously, if not for Bicky always sending him Magic Crystals and other resources, he would have already kicked her away already.

Moreover, Bicky unknowingly revealed that her family had a Rainbow Potion in their possession, so Fayle could not hold back from wanting it.

First, he put on an act to save her in the bloodbath to deepen their relationship. Afterwards, he told her of his concerns in advancement, and requested her to steal her family’s treasure!

“Hng! I, Fayle, will be a monarch unifying the South Coast in future. Why would I even have my eyes on such trash?”

Furthermore, according to some inside information, the Purple-Gold Flower Family wanted to betroth a young girl to him. This was normally the methods used by Magi families to rope in genius Magi.

Not only could they bind him on their bandwagon, but they

could also inject new heirs with superior bloodlines.

“Men...Mentor, it’s time to have lunch!”

A shy voice sounded. It was a blonde female acolyte wearing grey robes. She was only about 11 or 12, where there was some baby fat on her cheeks.

“En!” Fayle acknowledged and caressed the girl’s cheek.

The girl’s face reddened yet she did not dare to move, letting Fayle touch her. Finally, she left with an embarrassed expression.

An insatiable lust could not be concealed in Fayle’s eyes as he watched the girl’s leaving figure.

Fayle knew that he had some fetish towards this aspect. For example... He did not like mature women but only young girls!

This little girl was an acolyte he had taken in after becoming an official Magus. As for why he took her under his wing, it was the Purple-Gold Flower Family’s request. On the other hand, it was also after seeing how she was this pure and lovable.

He always felt it was disdainful to hide his desires.

Moreover, to outsiders, there was nothing wrong with that.

Official Magi always have special rights. Furthermore, if it was only this much the Purple-Gold Flower Family had to invest in to get the teachings of an official Magus, the little girl was definitely benefitting from it.

Fayle, whose robes was neat and tidy, sat on a long table.

Beside him was the little girl from before.

Around them, there was a dozen of maids and menservants quietly attending to their needs.

In reality, there were the servants assigned by the Purple-Gold Flower Family, so he did not have to waste a single coin.

Moreover, even this tower that he lived in was constructed by the Purple-Gold Flower Family and sent to him by the initiative.

Every time something like that happened, Fayle would be put in a good mood.

“What’s today’s lunch menu?”

“Fresh tenderloin beef, My Lord!” An old housekeeper bowed and replied.

A pretty maid went open and opened the golden lid. An aroma of hot food wafted in the air. In the middle was a well-done beef

tenderloin steak, coupled with soup and juice.

Fayle expertly cut with the knife and used the silver fork to poke the meat.

“This meat... Seemed to be redder than regular beef...”

Fayle spoke indifferently and placed the meat piece into his mouth...

After eating, Fayle used a white napkin to wipe his lips.

“Today’s beef flavour was pretty good, where did the beef come from?”

“My Lord! It was a meat vendor who approached our front door and pitched a sale. I saw that the steak quality was not bad, so I bought a few...” The housekeeper reported.

“Isn’t this the outer vicinity of the Purple-Gold Flower Family? There are actually meat vendors coming up to sell their goods?”

Fayle suddenly felt that it was absurd.

Chapter 129: An Incurable Curse

“Yes, I remember it clearly. That meat vendor wore a black hood, his dishevelled hair covering half his face. There was a metal hook on his left hand...”

The housekeeper vividly recalled the memory of the meat vendor.

“This is really strange!” Fayle shook his head and looked at the little girl beside him.

“How is the construction of your mind runes coming on?”

“I have already constructed three but I can’t seem to construct the fourth! Also, inside the <All Living Things> biology...” The little girl reported back meekly.

“So it’s like this?” Fayle interlaced his fingers.

“Your progress is too slow. Tonight you must come to my room, I’ll be personally ‘coaching’ you!”

“Yes, Mentor!” The little girl replied softly.

Dang Dang Dang!

The copper grandfather clock in the hall gave a resounding boom and the clock struck 12 times. The sky outside had already darkened and one could slightly see some visible blue stars.

“It’s already so late, why isn’t Nida here yet!”

Fayle slammed opened the door with a loud bang, annoyance evidently seen on his face.

“Nida! Nida!” Fayle began to shout.

His voice echoed throughout the silent hallway, reverberating for a long distance.

The surroundings were in dead silence. Fayle could even hear his own breathing and the flow of his blood.

“Housekeeper! Housekeeper! Maids! Where are they?!”

Impatience began to show on his face, as he hurriedly put on his outer garments and stepped outside of the door.

Dong Dong Dong! The sound of leather boots striking the floor was heard.

A black figure walked slowly towards Fayle.

“Who? Who’s there?” Fayle called out warily, a silver short sword appearing in his hands.

No matter how Fayle shouted, the footsteps maintained a constant pace that was neither too fast nor slow and walked towards him.

When the black figure drew closer, Fayle could almost see the full appearance of the figure.

It was a middle-aged man who wore black robes. On his chest hung the trademark apron that butchers wore. On his head was a black hood, his dishevelled hair covering most of his face. What was especially attracting was his empty left sleeves. Instead, only a rusty metal hook was seen at the end of the sleeve.

This description perfectly fit the one that the housekeeper mentioned earlier.

Weng!

The silver short sword glinted and flew directly to the man with a whistling sound.

Pu! As if piercing through an illusion, ripples appeared on the meat vendor’s body and the silver short sword went through it.

“Illusory spell?!” Fayle’s lips started to move as he chanted a high pitched incantation.

Xiu Xiu!

A mixture of the sound of a quick panting on a metallic flute and like the sound of a rusty knife scraping against a metal continuously sounded, causing ripples in the air.

After the whistling sound ended, it was still absolute silence in the tall tower, as if the world only had Fayle and the meat vendor in it.

The black robed man immediately raised his left hook and swung it at Fayle.

Bubble! From Fayle's body, a layer of fluid formed transparent water shield, blocking the metal hook's assault.

This was Fayle's innate spell which was finally activated in crucial moments!

Seizing this opportunity, Fayle hurriedly chanted and multiple frost spikes were shot towards the man.

Pu! Pu!

The frost spikes entered the body and countless blood was spurted out. However, the man in the robes seemed not to be conscious about it, even his expression did not change, like that of

a zombie who did not know pain. He continuously brandished his metal hook, causing ripples after ripples on the water shield.

“Fuck, what is this damned thing?”

Fayle struck at the man in the robes for several more times before his mental fortitude seemed to be on the verge of collapse.

No matter if it was physical or magical attacks, it all amounted to nothing when they landed on this man’s body.

Instead, every strike from this metal hook continuously consumed the energy needed to maintain the innate spell. Fayle could clearly feel that if the opponent were to attack several more times, his innate spell would completely shatter.

“Run!”

Under the life or death crisis, Fayle felt as though he returned back to his acolyte days where he had to greet every Magus respectfully, before turning around and running away.

Dong Dong Dong Dong!

Hearing the approaching footsteps of the man wearing the black robes resounding in his ears, it made Fayle run even faster.

20 metres!

10 metres!

5 metres!

1 metres!

Fayle grabbed hold of the large main doors of the tall tower and dashed outside.

Peng! The door behind was closed shut. To Fayle's utter dismay, he actually appeared inside his bedroom once again. Also, there was only a 3 metres distance between him and the man now!

“Damn it! Damn it! Damn it! What's happening?”

Fayle gritted his teeth and continued to run, yet returning to his room every time.

Finally, tears and mucus ran down Fayle's face as he returned yet again to his room and closing the door shut tightly.

Dong! Dong! The knocking sounds that were the footsteps of the death god. Fayle felt that every step was stepping directly on his heart.

“Mentor! Papa! Mama! Save me!”

Fayle crouched behind the door, crying like a little child.

As if hearing his pants, the booming footsteps halted. Finally, when it was just one step away from the door, it disappeared....

Fayle was pale stricken as he waited for a good half hour before his trembling hands opened the door, only to see no one there.

“Hu....”

Fayle exhaled a large breath and collapsed to the ground as if all the bones had been removed from his body.

“It’s finally gone! I must write a letter to Mentor tomorrow and let him check what had transpired...”

Fayle closed the door.

Suddenly, just when he had turned around, a dishevelled face appeared right before him.

What came closely following it was a black metal hook!

Pu! This time, the black metal hook directly broke through Fayle’s defensive forcefield and gouged his right eyeball out.

The moment his eye was hooked out, black and red viscous liquid mixture flowed out.

The man seemed to be unsatisfied as he sent his hook at Fayle's head again!

Bang! Fayle's body was sent to the ground from the force. The metal hook bore through his brains deeply. Fayle was still unconsciously writhing before he lost all signs of life.

Brush!

Following wipe, the man in black robes immediately withdrew a greasy bone saw and began to expertly dissect Fayle's corpse.

After the dissection, Fayle's muscles had been completely stripped clean. The colour of it too turned even redder, revealing the veins of blood, similar to that found in the beef tenderloin!

Winding the time back to yesterday morning.

The black robed man knocked on the kitchen's door of the tall tower, revealing a hideous smile. "Do you want to buy meat? I have good tenderloin steak for sale..."

.....

Several li away from Fayle's tall tower, Leylin looked at a spell

formation with a solemn expression.

In the centre of the formation, a black flame was flickering, in the heart of it was the scene of Fayle's ending.

With the images continuously flashing by, Leylin stared at the image without blinking, mysteriously chanting at the same time.

Finally, after the black robed man killed Fayle and scoured his flesh clean, Leylin's expression loosened.

Pa! The black coloured spell formation collapsed.

The surroundings immediately quietened down and a dead silence followed after.

Dong Dong!

The black robed man inside the image earlier appeared in front of Leylin.

"You're here now?" Leylin seemed to have expected it, with no shocked expression on his face.

"Shihiohj" The black robed man let off several indiscernible words and charged towards Leylin.

Bang! The black metal hook was grabbed by a scaly palm.

Leylin faced the black robed man and could even see the crude construction of his facial features.

“Look into my eyes!” Leylin spoke gently with a hissing voice like that of a snake’s.

The black robed man unconsciously looked into Leylin’s eyes.

At this moment, there were some phenomenal changes in Leylin’s eyes — both his eyes turned into vertical pupils, letting off the crystal glow like amber!

Innate Spell—Eye of Petrification!

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha! A grey-white colour extended from the man’s face to his whole body.

Several seconds later, the black-robed man completely turned into a grey-white statue.

“Seize the chance!” Leylin picked up the grey statue and tossed it into the heart of the black formation!

Crash! The stone statue shattered in pieces, from it grayish-white gases appeared as if wanting to form into a human figure.

“Dust to dust, earth to earth, return to where you came from!”

Leylin chanted in the ancient Byron language.

A black circular whirlpool suddenly appeared in the middle of the formation. With a huge suction force, it sucked in the grey-white gas in.

After the whirlpool disappeared, Leylin then heaved a sigh of relief and collapsed to the ground.

“Such a curse cannot be easily activated by anyone!” Leylin smiled wryly.

After destroying all traces of Clayde, Leylin hurried along the way as he brewed the Serenity Potion, finally suppressing the emotional fluctuations that Warlocks had.

However after some thought, he wanted to see things come to an end. So he decided to kill Fayle before escaping the area.

The Lilytell Family would definitely have a wanted list on him through the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, so what if he were to add another pursuer, the Purple-Gold Flower Family to it? Anyway, it was the wanted list put up by Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, so having one or two families chasing after him had no difference.

Furthermore, Leylin saw a Rank 1 curse spell inside the Book of

Giant Serpent. It could completely kill Fayle with no one the wiser, and no trouble would come after him.

However, Leylin did not think that this curse was this malicious, it would even reverse the sorcery on the spell caster!

This left him with some lingering fear, especially after seeing the monstrous way Fayle was killed.

These Rank 1 Spell requirements were extremely harsh.

First of all, he had to cast a Darkness body and use the opponent's trace of scent, if not it could not be casted.

Afterwards, it required one to know the basics of spirit bodies. Fortunately, Leylin had amassed some experience in Extreme Night City, so he picked it up rather quickly.

Finally, this curse had a limitation which was the distance. Moreover, it could only attack a target that had lower stats than the spell caster.

Chapter 130: Horse Carriage

The Book of Giant Serpent mentioned that the curse had had to have stats lower than the spell caster. If any one stat of the target is higher, the might of this curse would be reduced by more than half.

Leylin found out that once the curse has ended, the caster still had to face the wrath of a vengeful spirit which was summoned in the process.

It was absolutely ridiculous!

With so many prerequisites, and being only able to deal with targets with lower stats, finally having to suffer the backlash from a vengeful spirit!

In Leylin's opinion, this kind of curse wasn't very useful.

However, Fayle met this requirement just right.

He had just advanced and embarked on the simplest path. The various stats were lower than Leylin. Moreover, he had already collected his scent when he was with Bicky previously.

Adding on to the various reasons, Fayle had become Leylin's first sacrifice to practice the curse on.

“I always feel that there’s something wrong with this curse, it’s better to use it lesser in future!”

Leylin patted off the dust on his body.

“However, with the disappearance of the Great Magus Serholm, the people on South Coast who can recognise this curse are barely alive, no to mention finding out who the caster was. No matter how the Purple-Gold Flower Family investigates, they couldn’t trace it back to me...”

If Leylin could avoid such troubles and remove all traces of himself, he would do so, never leaving behind any leads.

After the task was completed, Leylin left the Poolfield Kingdom.

.....

In the Inlan Dukedom, on a broad road, a black horse carriage continuously sped on it.

The wooden wheels which were galvanised by iron let off creaking sounds.

As there were no shock absorbing functions, the rise and fall of the carriage was extremely great, so the passenger inside the horse carriage did not have a good ride.

It seems that this rented horse carriage had all sorts of passengers on it. There was a white-bearded old man with his granddaughter, wanton women, and even those merchants wearing caps hugging onto their belongings tightly.

In their midst, there was a black cloaked youth.

The youth had pure black hair with some lustre on it. His handsome face had a radiant smile, which made him have a strange yet strong charisma!

This person naturally was Leylin.

After using the curse to kill Fayle, he no longer had any concerns, so he left the Poolfield Kingdom immediately.

Although the Zither Moon Mountain Plains was rather dangerous for acolytes, Leylin who was a Warlock that surpassed regular Rank 1 Magi treated it as a walk in his back garden. It was a place where he could roam around freely.

After arriving at the Inlan Dukedom, Leylin finally relaxed!

Ever since the armistice, there has been peace between the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Sage Gotham Hut. However, with the increasing degree of hostility, even the powers of the secular realm were affected. There was news of this two great kingdoms going to war once again.

No mercy would be given to the two kingdoms' official Magi. Once spotted in enemy's territory, they would be viciously hunted down.

With much of the troubles passed, Leylin began to feel more relaxed. He abandoned the notion of ploughing through his travels as a lone wolf and instead made use of secular methods to conduct his travels.

Since he did not opt to join the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy after his promotion, Leylin was not affected or restricted by the armistice. However, he was still in a precarious position.

As a betrayer of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and with no intention to join Sage Gotham Hut, he had to be careful while in their territory.

Blending amongst the regular humans seemed like a good way to travel.

The downside was that the traffic conditions while travelling with the plebeians were pretty bad.

A scowl crossed Leylin's' face as he experienced the chaotic congestions and rancid odour emitted from the carriage.

If there was an alternative way to travel, he would have long ago alighted from this carriage.

Amidst the foul experience on board the carriage, Leylin noticed a child dressed pink seated opposite him and let out a brief smile.

The adolescent female child had a pair of sapphire-like eyes and milky white skin. She spotted Leylin smiling at her and smiled back friendly at Leylin.

The little girl's grandfather seated next to her spotted the interaction and immediately pulled her close to his side. He whispered words into the child's ear which caused her to hurriedly avoid Leylin's attention. Although hard to hear, It was most likely a warning against the dangers lurking outside.

Following which, the white-bearded grandfather stared menacingly into Leylin's eyes as a sign of warning.

Unaffected by the grandfather's hostility, Leylin let out a chuckle.

Leylin felt an aura of familiarity from the little girl. Although just 12 or 13 years of age, she was already exuding an odd amount of charm, causing passengers of the carriage to constantly steal glances at her.

Even Leylin was fascinated by the little girl.

After observing her for a little while more, Leylin came to the conclusion that she had a Warlock's bloodline!

The strength of Warlocks came from the bloodlines. Their descendants would also carry traces of their bloodline. However, it was extremely difficult to unearth that strength again.

For instance, this little girl's bloodline was already extremely thin. Moreover, there were no energy waves coming from her. She was the most regular of humans, not even an acolyte.

Also, the further away from the first generation Warlock, the bloodline would slowly thin out over the generations, finally turning into regular humans again.

However, in the second and third generations, there were still plenty of decent quality bloodline inherited.

Hence, Warlocks tend to reproduce often to establish their own family.

Leylin, for example, was a first generation bloodline. If he had any descendants, his children and grandchildren's bloodline would also have the strength of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent!

This scenario was somewhat similar to the Magi families, yet different.

The main thing that Magi wanted to pass on was their soul aptitude, every generation may be regular humans with no aptitude. Furthermore, although both the Warlocks and Magi held bloodlines in esteem, the Magi would not mind accepting fresh

blood to raise the genes passed down in the family, which might sometimes exceed that of the ancestors!

However, Warlocks were different. They revered the purity of bloodlines, so they would protect the purity of the bloodlines and soul through the marriage of relatives. To them, if an outsider joins their family, not only would it increase the density of the bloodline, it would even contaminate their bloodline.

Moreover, the descendants inheriting the bloodline of Warlocks found it extremely difficult to advance into an official Magus. Unless they found a high-grade meditation technique that was suitable for their bloodline. Under normal circumstances, these things were usually passed down from the first generation.

However, once the density of the bloodline thins out, or if the inheritance of the high-grade meditation technique stopped, it was often the start of a Warlock family's decline.

When a Magus family declines, there was the possible chance of their descendants bringing it back to glory. However, it was extremely difficult for Warlock families to do the same.

Unless the descendant found the original source of bloodline, or through some other methods to replenish the strength of bloodlines!

In the Central Continent, there were 3 schools of thoughts. Families consisted of either those who revered high-grade meditation techniques, those with bloodlines or some other

assortment of the magisterium. This were the 3 main representatives in the continent.

This information and news naturally came from the Book of Giant Serpent written by the Great Magus Serholm.

From some information that the Great Magus Serholm had revealed, he was most likely in the central continent, yet for some unknown reason, he went to the South Coast.

As Leylin was a Rank 1 Warlock, he was extremely sensitive to his kind.

On that old geezer's body, Leylin could not detect a single trace of the bloodline.

It was very evident that he was not the biological grandparent of that little girl.

However, this old geezer was not any regular human. Leylin detected a trace of acolyte's energy waves from him. Looking at the might, it belonged to a Level 2 Acolyte.

“Interesting! A housekeeper? Or adoption?” Leylin smiled ‘apologetically’ and continued with his pondering.

What was undeniable was that Leylin had an extreme interest in his same kind.

Although it was most likely that no high-grade meditation techniques could appear on her. Even if there was Leylin would not use it, unless she was had the bloodline of snake types.

However, as the descendant of another Warlock, Leylin had a very good comparison sample on how to unearth his own strength from the bloodline.

Moreover, he wished to try and see if he could extract the blood essence from this girl and purify the bloodline. So that he could obtain another ancient creature's bloodline.

The other party's destination was also the Great Canyon Margaret, which coincided with Leylin's plans, so he naturally dispelled the thought of travelling alone.

As for the white bearded old geezer beside the little girl, he often saw Leylin sneaking glances at his granddaughter, even having a smile that seemed to harbour malicious intentions. So naturally his expression was not too pleasant.

However, he did not discover Leylin's identity, only treating him as a mere human.

After the advancement previously, Leylin spent much time and effort to have the A.I. Chip optimise his shapeshifting ability again. The effect was greater than before, although he did not have the information from an official Magus, Leylin knew that this old geezer could not discern of his shapeshifting ability after activating

it.

Right now, he had not yet completely know how to make use of this little girl.

Should he abduct her directly and obtain the blood? Or conduct some experiments while observing her at the side?

After all, he did not know if the backing of this little girl was a Warlock family or not. Although this possibility wasn't great, Leylin still did not wish to take the risk.

However, it seemed like he could unravel the mysteries very soon!

The corner of Leylin's lips curled up.

After so many days of observation, he realised that the old geezer was mostly frowning as if he was riddled with a great load on his mind.

Moreover, with the passing of each day, he was evidently becoming more impatient, as he hurriedly requested for the horse carriage to move faster.

After being rejected, he even had the plan to leave the party. However, it seemed that he recalled of something, so he could only put up with it and continue on the horse carriage.

“It seems like this journey would not be too boring!”

Leylin was only an acolyte previously, so naturally he did not wish for trouble. If he had not yet advanced into a Warlock, he would definitely be the first to leave the horse carriage if he met this acolyte who seemed to be running away from something.

However, everything was different now. In the South Coast, Rank 1 Magi were great powers, much less to mention himself who was a little stronger than newly advanced Magi.

Chapter 131: Pursuers

Previously, Leylin held himself back from taking action, not because he was afraid of doing something, but because he didn't want to be inconvenienced.

However, this girl in front of him had something that interested him. Furthermore, once his research was a success, he would greatly benefit from it.

It was only natural, that he now intended to take action.

However, for prudence's sake, he still chose to lay low on the sidelines and observe the strength of his enemies first.

If their might was average, he would definitely not be modest. He would immediately abduct or coerce the girl to follow him and not be afraid of the pursuers.

If they were too strong, he could only give up. In any case, the world was so big, and she was not the only one with a Warlock's bloodline. There might be very few of them on the South Coast, but there were definitely many in the Central Continent.

Several days later, the horse carriage entered the district of York City.

This was already along the borders of the Inlan Dukedom. As for

the old man, his anxiety had already intensified to the maximum. Most of the time he would stay on the horse carriage, seldom leaving it. He even closely guarded the little girl by his side, as if being afraid of something.

The hazy night had dyed the sky an overcast grey. Only somewhere far away in the horizon was there a little light.

The horse carriage stopped by the roadside, and the weary passengers began to alight, and then sat in a circle around a bonfire for refreshments and rest.

After so many days of travel, the people in the horse carriage also got close with each other. Especially that little merchant, who took out a flute and played an upbeat tune and the beautiful woman beside him followed suit by performing a gorgeous dance.

There were several middle-aged men who took out wine flasks from their sacks and walked forward to the beautiful woman to ingratiate themselves. As for that woman, she chuckled, seemingly not rejecting these suitors.

After the atmosphere reached a climax, the people began to sing and dance. Even the horse keeper gulped down several mouthfuls of strong wine and had a tinge of red at the end of his nose.

Leylin reclined against the trunk of a tree, his hand holding a wine flask from which he drank occasionally. He shot a glance inside the horse carriage and grinned.

Although the sky had already dimmed tonight, the old geezer still urged the carriage driver to move on.

However, travelling in the middle of the night was extremely dangerous. Hence, this suggestion was rejected by carriage driver and all of the passengers.

That old geezer's expression then was really a sight to be seen.

Furthermore, tonight the old geezer had decided to stay within the horse carriage, not even letting his granddaughter leave half a step away from the horse carriage. Ugly rumours had already begun to have gossiped amongst the travellers.

However, Leylin knew that this pair who pretended to be a grandfather with his granddaughter was afraid of pursuers, that's why they hid in the horse carriage. Looking on at the situation, the pursuers were almost arriving too.

No, they were already here. Leylin turned his head, and with the A.I. Chip, he saw several acolytes, who did not hold back their energy waves radiation, hiding in a dark corner.

Looking at the strength of the energy waves, there were all Level 3 Acolytes.

Bang!

A red arrow was released and it directly shot through the brains

of a muscled, half-naked man who was dancing by the fire.

“Ahhh!” The blood splattered onto a woman nearby. Her expression turned sluggish, only letting off an ear piercing scream several seconds later.

“Bandits!” “Help!” Various cries sounded in the camp.

As for the carriage driver, he very quickly donned a leather armour and crouched, hugging his head and not moving at all.

The horse carriage providers had a promise with the nearby bandits, that they would only rob the passengers. As for the drivers, the bandits would often let them go scot-free — after all, they would not have much money on them.

However, tonight the carriage driver’s plans were in vain.

Xiu! Another red arrow was shot, directly piercing through the driver’s neck! He clutched his neck with both hands, his eyes popping out and frothing blood at the corner of his lips. His mouth gaped open and close for air as if wanting to enjoy the freshness of the air one last time before he died.

“A sharpening spell added on the arrow? Interesting!”

Beside the chaotic campsite, Leylin was still reclining against the tree. He gulped down another mouthful of wine, his expression appearing indifferent.

At this moment, his lax behaviour was vastly different from the current situation, yet nobody was paying him any attention.

The second arrow obviously caused greater chaos within the camp. Be they man or woman, young or old — they were all wildly running away.

Several minutes later, the campsite that had once had a lively and jovial atmosphere, now only had a crackling bonfire and several wine flasks which had been forsaken.

Crash! 3 figures wearing black robes appeared from within the forest.

Leylin's outstanding vision allowed him to see clearly the appearance of this trio.

There were two men and a woman, all of them were of middling years. The woman had applied a very thick layer lipstick, which seemed like she had just drank a mouthful of blood.

These 3 were obviously not students of an academy. Their attire were rather casual, however, there was an image of a dodo-bird stitched on their robes, seemingly a family emblem.

These were the acolytes nurtured by a family.

Some of them from Magi families, who had poor aptitudes, could not be accepted into academies, so they could only be nurtured by their families themselves.

Most of them could not even advance to a Level 3 Acolyte, so the majority of them remained as a Level 1 Acolyte or Level 2 Acolyte.

These 3 who were able to advance to Level 3 Acolytes, either had good aptitudes or were expelled from an academy or had graduated.

“Miles, come out! We know you’re inside the horse carriage!”

The three of them took on a triangular formation to surround the horse carriage, and a silver-haired man laughed smugly.

Boom!

What replied him was a burning red fireball.

Pa! As the middle-aged man dodged the fireball, the horse carriage suddenly shattered and a black figure with a smaller figure wrapped on his lower body rapidly sneaked past the gap that the middle-aged man exposed.

“Thinking of escaping?” The woman smirked and hurriedly chanted an incantation, casting a speed reducing spell.

A layer of murky green shone on the black figure and his speed dropped drastically.

“Xiu!” The eyes of the third person who held a bow flashed, and immediately he fired another red arrow.

Pu! The arrow bore into the left chest of the black figure, drawing fresh blood from it. The black figure groaned and fell to the ground, revealing the face of the white-bearded geezer.

“Run! Why don’t you keep running?”

The man, who had been the target of that fireball shot previously, was in a miserable state. Seeing the old geezer on the ground, his expression turned malevolent and he drew out a curved blade, hacking at the old geezer Mile’s left leg.

Ka-Cha! The old geezer’s left leg was immediately chopped off.

“Ahhh!” The little girl fainted immediately after having blood spurting on her.

“Such a beautiful little girl, killing her outright is such a pity!” The man who held the bow licked his lips, revealing a lusty grin. “Why don’t you let me have some fun first?”

“It’s your call, we still have plenty of time!”

It was very obvious that these three acolytes did not have any regard for the old geezer, Miles, at all. They were extremely relaxed and had their guard down.

In fact, this was the reality. Miles was only a Level 3 Acolyte and the little girl was not even an acolyte. Such a line-up can be easily destroyed by just sending one Level 3 Acolyte.

It was only for added assurance that 3 such acolytes had been sent.

When the bowman grinned lewdly, a lazy voice sounded.

“I say, you guys seem to have forgotten about me!”

Leylin flung the flask away and announced himself in a crisp voice.

“You... You actually didn’t run away?” The other male acolyte was somewhat shocked. Normally, wasn’t the reaction of people, after seeing someone get killed, to run away? Much less to mention encountering magicians of the sorts.

“Just right, I wish to loosen my muscles after pursuing this old geezer. Leave him to me!”

The only female acolyte among them looked at the handsome Leylin and her eyes flashed. Her mouth gaped open and close with the heavy lipstick as if wanting to swallow Leylin immediately.

Right now, Leylin's charm factor had increased significantly after advancing to a Warlock. Along the way, he met many girls who cast flirtatious glances at him. However, meeting this kind of elderly woman, he felt rather disgusted.

“My apologies, but I don't have any interest towards aunties!”

Leylin spoke very 'sincerely', turning the face of this female acolyte red.

“Brat! I will let you feel the most unbearable pain on earth. An hour later, if you don't prostrate yourself like a dog in front of me, you will have my admiration!”

The female acolyte looked at Leylin as if she wanted to bite a piece of meat off him that very instant.

“No need for that, if you don't prostrate yourself like a dog right now in front of me, you will have my admiration!”

Leylin's eyes flashed icily as he dispelled the concealment spell. An immense force field immediately surrounded the area of the horse carriage.

“Of... Official Magus!” The eyes of the male leader of the trio popped out as he collapsed feebly onto the ground.

“Lo... Lord! Please pardon our accidental intrusion!”

The bowman acolyte, too, no longer had any interest in defiling the little girl. He immediately knelt in front of Leylin, cursing the damned bitch thousands and tens of thousands of times.

“How is it?”

Leylin looked at that female acolyte with a toying expression.

“Lo... Lo... Lo...” The female acolyte also fell to the ground, her jaws trembling, not being able to speak a single word.

“Lord, we are from the Yale Family... Our family head is also an official Magus!”

The leader noticed that Leylin’s gaze was hostile, immediately bringing up the backing of his group.

“Yale Family?” Leylin shook his head, indicating that he did not recognise this name.

Leylin had already scrutinised the large families around the Poolfield Kingdom before and did not recall any Yale Family of the sorts.

“A.I. Chip, scan database!”

[Beep! Yale Family: Situated in the Denisque Province of the Inlan Dukedom. The family head's name is Sam Yale. Originally an acolyte from the Sage Gotham Hut, he advanced to an official Magus at thirty years of age. Information source: History of Magi families, page 1928!]

An extremely simple introduction. From the information recorded on the A.I. Chip, it seemed like a newly founded Magus family which was completely reliant on a Magus who had shockingly advanced as an acolyte.

It was far from being comparable with the Lilytell Family and only slightly stronger than Bicky's family. There was not much backing and easily classified by the Magus World as the nouveau rich.

“Wait! Wait! I have the secret imprint of our family's head!”

Seeing that Leylin was about to take action, the leader immediately shouted and ripped his clothes apart.

Chapter 132: Secret Imprint

“The secret imprint?”

Leylin nodded his head and stopped in his motions.

This so-called technique for the secret imprint was a tool that official Magi use for communication.

Every newly advanced official Magus would be able to design a special sign to represent themselves. In future, they could leave their secret imprint behind for communication.

As for some Magi, they would even brand it on their family members or slaves to represent the authority given.

Leylin had crafted an imprint for himself. It was an inverted triangle enclosed in a circle. On the triangle was a black serpent that snaked to the top

As for the leader's chest, an image of blue dodo bird's head was flashing with light.

It seemed that initiating the communication to the head required a tremendous amount of Spiritual Force and Magic power. Just a few minutes later, the leader's face at once became deathly pale.

Fortunately, right before the leader was unable to endure any longer, the blue light shone brightly and a blue dodo bird flew out from his chest, and perched on his shoulder.

“Sulley, is there something you want to see me about?”

The dodo bird seemed not to have noticed Leylin and immediately questioned the leader.

“He... Head, it’s like this...” That leader hurriedly whispered to the dodo bird and briefly updated him on the happenings.

The secret imprint had its limitations and could only project the voices without images. Moreover, without the aid of the communications tower, once the distance was too great, even the voices could not be sent across.

“Hello, young expert!” The dodo bird greeted Leylin.

“It’s an honour to meet the head of the Yale Family, Sam Yale!” Leylin opened his mouth, his voice gruff and hoarse. It was obviously altered with the help the A.I. Chip.

“According to those family members that were dumb enough to offend you, I apologise on their behalf...” The blue dodo bird already flew back into the leader’s chest, turning into a tattoo that seemed to be alive.

“They actually dared to offend me, an official Magus. Hence, they

must pay the price!” Murderous intent was contained in Leylin’s voice.

“They?” The dodo bird paused, before speaking again, “I can act on their behalf and compensate you...”

“Compensation? Leylin hooted with laughter. “Are you mocking me?”

“Not good, run!” The leader did not think that Leylin did not give the head any face in the slightest, as he hurriedly retreated.

“After offending me you still want to leave?”

Leylin’s eyes turned bloodshot and several red fireballs were cast, turning the three who could not dodge in time into a pile of ashes.

The might of acolytes, in front of official Magi, were as brittle as paper.

As for the secret imprint which was a communication device, naturally it was unable to transmit any attacks.

By abusing the limitations of the secret imprint, Leylin chose to kill them.

Anyway, his voice was concealed by the alteration of the A.I. Chip, so Sam would never be able to find him.

Keeping these acolytes alive, instead, would easily bring him trouble.

Moreover, he did not wish to remain in the Inlan Dukedom. Once he leaves the place, the other party would not be able to do anything about it either.

Walking towards the grandparent and grandchild pair, the little girl was still unconscious, having several tears on her face.

“Lord...Lord Magus!”

A shocked expression filled the old geezer’s face. Obviously, he never thought that this person who rode the same horse carriage was actually an official Magus.

Leylin squatted down and examined the old geezer’s wounds

The injury was serious. A commoner would definitely die from this wound. Even if this old geezer was a Level 2 Acolyte, he could survive for an additional 10 hours maximum.

Of course, Leylin could cure the old geezer but he would lose some of his precious herbs and medicines in the process. Moreover, the old geezer didn’t have a Warlock’s bloodline so Leylin was very hesitant to treat him.

However, what has to be done has to be done.

“Drink this! It will make you feel better!” Leylin handed a vial of vitality potion to the old geezer. After which, he headed over to wake the little girl up.

“Grandpa Miles!” As soon as she woke up, the little girl shouted, and threw herself at Miles and began to weep in sorrow.

After drinking the potion, the old geezer’s face revealed a flash of life. Momentarily, his spirits were up as well. This potion was merely a stimulant. It was much cheaper than the actual cure, so Leylin was willing to expend such a cheap potion.

“Good child!”

Mile stretched out his wrinkled and quivering hands to gently stroke the child’s head.

“This... This Lord Magus, could you send her to the Great Canyon Margaret, to where Marian is....”

The old geezer begged Leylin earnestly.

“I can!” Leylin pondered in silence for a moment before nodding his head to agree.

“Many thanks! You will forever be the friend of the Langster

Family!”

The old geezer grabbed the little girl’s hands and instructed, “From today onwards, listen to this Lord Leylin. Remember, you must obey every word, do you understand?”

As if expending all of his energy remaining, blackish red blood flowed from the old man’s lips the moment he finished talking.

“I...I understand...” The little girl sobbed silently.

The old geezer smiled, gratified at seeing the girl agree, before closing his eyes for eternity.

“Grandpa Miles! Grandpa Miles!”

The little girl cried in sorrow.

Leylin stood by a side and waited for a dozen minutes. When the girl stopped sobbing, he then asked, “We had better bury your Grandpa Miles! Also, what is your name?”

“Ivy! Sir!” The little girl’s voice was hoarse, yet it brimmed with respect.

Although Ivy was not an acolyte, but she, who grew up in a Magus family from childhood, naturally knew what being a Magus entailed.

An hour later, Leylin brought the little girl Ivy and looked at a newly constructed gravestone, making their final tribute in silence.

After the old geezer's disclosure and the little girl's own narration, Leylin finally understood the Langster family's backing.

This Langster family was very small. Rumours have it that they held the inheritance to an incomplete meditation technique.

However, the thinning of the Warlock bloodline and the lack of an official Magus has made the family a lowly rated one in the Magus World.

Two hundred years ago, the incomplete meditation technique was lost in an unfortunate accident.

The limitations of Warlocks were in their bloodline, as they could only cultivate in meditation techniques suitable for themselves. Normal mind runes constructions of acolytes had no use for them.

Therefore, it was unavoidable that this family, which had produced no Magus, had deteriorated over the years.

If not for the few generations of heads standing their ground and accepting a few orphans to undergo acolyte training, it was very likely that they did not even have an acolyte in the family now.

As for Miles, he was one of these orphan acolytes, tasked as a housekeeper of the Langster Family.

Just a month ago, the Yale family who was coveting the Langster family, declared war on it.

Apart from Ivy, all of the family members were killed in that war. As for Miles, he fought his way out to bring Ivy away, preparing to seek asylum with a friend of Ivy's parents in the Great Canyon Margaret.

Hence, Ivy who was in Leylin's hands was the final bloodline of the Langster family.

Of course, after knowing this news, there was an indescribable feeling stemming within Leylin's heart.

However, after seeing the Langster family who had Warlock origins deteriorate into such a state, he felt like a fox grieving [1] when the rabbit dies.

Of course, he would not let these emotions fuel his desire for revenge to the Langster family. However, if the despicable leader of the Yale family happened to be in his way, that would be a different story.

"Let's go!" Leylin grabbed Ivy's little hand and set out towards his new destination

He prepared to bring the little girl to the Great Canyon Margaret. It wasn't that he suddenly had a change of heart, but he was planning something else.

First of all, some experiments required Ivy to coordinate with him of her own accord in order to achieve the best results.

After that, the Great Canyon Margaret was one of the areas that Leylin had to go, so it was not troublesome. Furthermore, if Leylin discovered that Ivy had some other uses along the way, he would not hand Ivy over to Marian, for sure.

Leylin did not eliminate any possibilities of doing good within his means to increase his reputation. However, it had to be under the conditions that it would not come across his personal benefits in any way.

Even if someone were to beat him to death, Leylin would not commit such a foolish thing like altruism.

However, if he could accomplish some things effortlessly and obtain a positive reputation, he would be very willing to do it.

From Leylin's perspective, reputation was also a form of resource, a type of benefit.

However, in the hearts of different people, the gravity that people had towards fame versus their personal benefits were

different. And in their eyes, the importance of fame was ranked low on their list.

“One more point, I have some interest in your family’s bloodline. I require you to coordinate with me on some experiments, do you understand?”

As the sky turned darker, an emerald green field of view appeared in Leylin’s eyes. It allowed him to see even better than daytime.

When he spoke, Leylin felt Ivy’s hands quiver noticeably,

“As you wish! Lord! “

Ivy replied a good while later with a shaky voice.

“I adore intelligent and obedient children!” Ivy’s obedience and maturity left Leylin pleasantly surprised as he originally thought he had to spend some effort to handle her.,

He gently stroked Ivy on the head and carried her in his arms.

“Mas... Master...” Ivy gently called out in a voice as small as the buzz of a mosquito.

“If you cannot see the road clearly in this dark night, I can help!”

Feeling the trembling of the little body in his bosom, Leylin smiled and patted Ivy on the back. With an increase in his pace, the pair quickly disappeared into the darkness.

“This kind of vision... is it that of a serpent?”

Leylin’s vision was affected by an emerald green tint.

Even though it was dark at night, Leylin could see everything.

Somewhere tens of meters away, there was a dog-like creature with red heat emitting from its body.

It somewhat resembled heat imaging.

“Turns out that the so-called path of Warlocks is to continuously tap into the origin of the bloodline and the process of remodeling of one’s body...

Leylin was somewhat enlightened “Looks like I have to spend more time on my transfiguration...”

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[1] [TL Note: (兔死狐悲) If the rabbit dies, the fox grieves. It means to have sympathy with a like-minded person in distress.]

Chapter 133: Elemental Essence

Conversion

In a somewhat dilapidated campsite.

Erected in the middle of the campsite was a tent made from cowhide, and it had a sturdy look to it.

Beside the tent was a small fire, where bright yellow flames continuously lapped against a metal pot hanging above it.

A broth that contained some pieces of mushroom and beef-jerky was boiling in this metal pot.

Around the fire, there were many pieces of forked branches, which was used to grill several small fishes. There was also some barbecued meat, which frothed with tiny bubbles as the golden-yellow grease continuously dripped down, while the aroma of sizzling meat permeated the air.

The little blonde girl sat by the side, looking at the piping hot food, involuntarily gulping down her saliva.

Thereafter, she turned her head to look to the side.

There, on a patch of grass, a handsome, black-haired man sat cross-legged on a white sackcloth as he practiced meditation.

This person was, naturally, Leylin.

After bringing Ivy along for quite some distance, he initiated a break to rest awhile.

Although Leylin, with his current Vitality, would not be tired even after journeying for 7 days and nights, the little girl would definitely not be able to keep up.

Moreover, he had to take out some time every day to cultivate with his high-grade meditation technique.

The meditation technique that he had gotten was the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique that was compatible with his bloodline. Adding on to the A.I. Chip's purification of the blood essence, his progress in meditation was extremely fast.

“Eyes are the windows of the soul, by concentrating your sight with the Kemoyin's Pupil, you will rediscover yourself – Norco Curadu Sfar!”

This was what Leylin saw repeatedly at the start of the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique.

And now, Leylin shut both his eyes and felt that he was staring right into a pair of vertical pupils that were amber-like.

Darkness with burning flames seemed to engulf his body.

As for Ivy who had been watching Leylin, she realised that a black and red mist emerged from Leylin's body. This mist revolved around Leylin, not dissipating.

The strands of mist began to converge, forming the shape of a small snake, coiling around Leylin, at the same time spitting out its scarlet tongue.

The small snake continuously roved around Leylin, finally coiling on Leylin's face, turning into a strange mask. A wave of darkness energy particles was continuously absorbed by the mask.

A dozen minutes later, the mask shattered, turning into black gases and threaded into Leylin through the seven orifices.

"A.I. Chip! Scan my current data!" Leylin opened his eyes wide and commanded in silence.

[Beep! Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 28.2, Magic Power: 28 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Status: Healthy]

[Host completed a level of high-grade meditation technique. Spiritual Force increased by 0.005. Elemental essence conversion: Darkness. Progress: 1%]

“Every time I meditate there will be a definite increase in the Spiritual Force, it’s not bad already!”

Leylin nodded his head in satisfaction.

Increasing the Spiritual Force of magicians would only get more difficult in the long run. Especially for official Magi, the meditation techniques they used as acolytes were completely irrelevant now. If they did not have high-grade meditation techniques, they could only rely on external resources to increase their Spiritual Force.

Resources which were able to create an effect on official Magi were extremely rare even on the South Coast. Hence, after advancing into a Rank 1 Magus, many of the Magi found it extremely difficult to advance again.

Only those who had cultivated with the high-grade meditation techniques would be able to maintain their progress.

However, every level of high-grade meditation techniques was extremely challenging. The first level was still alright. However, after that, every level required tens of hundreds of years.

As for the special characteristics of high-grade meditation technique, they would only get more difficult the further one is. According to Leylin’s guess, after the third level, a Magus required thousands of years to advance to the next level!

Hence, many Magi could not advance in time before their lifespan was up, and died from old age just like that.

“A.I. Chip, calculate how long more I need to reach the criteria to advance and become a Rank 2 Warlock, given my current progress!”

[Beep! Mission establishing, gather Host’s data, simulating conjecture...]

[With the Host’s current stats, estimated to reach the requirements of advancement into a Rank 2 Warlock in 14 years and 7 months!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“That’s quite long! However, compared to those regular Magi who cannot advance in tens of hundreds of years, it seems like my current situation is pretty good!” Leylin’s brows furrowed but quickly relaxed.

From the graphical analysis made by the A.I. Chip, the increase in Spiritual Force that the high-grade meditation technique gives will also begin to slow down after reaching a certain extent. Moreover, the elemental essence conversion progress will only get slower as he progresses. This was the reason stopping Leylin from advancing quickly.

According to the A.I. Chip’s estimates and the Book of Giant Serpent implicit divulging, Rank 2 Magus advancement criteria was to have a Spiritual Force of at least 80, and the elemental essence conversion to be over 80%.

These two conditions alone have stumped many genius acolytes before.

The Spiritual Force requirement was still alright. Whether it was about cultivating in high-grade meditation techniques or finding large amounts of resources which could stimulate the Spiritual Force, it could still be solved over time.

However, elemental essence conversion was a different story altogether. First of all, if the Magus chose the wrong energy particles, then he would find it extremely difficult to exceed an elemental essence conversion of 50%. To be specific, one has to first choose the energy particle with the highest elemental affinity to get the elemental essence conversion to over 80%.

Moreover, this was only the most basic criteria. To some heirs of large families and true geniuses, they would waste their potential if they advanced with an 80% elemental essence conversion. Only by getting a 90% elemental essence conversion and above, would they face fewer bottlenecks while advancing to become a Rank 2 Magus.

These were all mentioned in the Kemoyin's Pupil.

In addition, some regular Magi had to solve the problem of obtaining a Rank 2 spell model. If they were unable to find one which complements their Rank 1 innate spell, mishaps will occur during the inscribing of their Rank 2 spell model, such as having their brains exploding.

Hence, those magicians who used Grine Water with spell models to advance, their path in future would become extremely narrow.

Although his progress was extremely fast already, Leylin still felt somewhat pressured deep down.

He had utterly offended the Lilytell Family. This was a large-scale family with the family head existence that could rival the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy's chairman.

That was a Rank 2 Magus or an expert close to that level!

As for Leylin right now, once he was to meet someone like that, his only outcome would be death!

Advancing into a Rank 1 Warlock only let him have the simplest form of self-preservation. To be able to live free in the future in broad daylight, he had to at least be a Rank 2 Warlock to be able to handle the pursuers from Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

After having access to the high-grade meditation technique, Leylin realised that magicians who cultivated with the high-grade meditation techniques also required some resources.

This was because some precious resources could increase the progress of meditation.

There were several ingredients that could complement his meditation — that was mentioned in the Kemoyin's Pupil

meditation technique.

Hence, he was somewhat impatient to hurry and reach the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, situated within the domain of Light Magi.

It had the largest, free trade market and collection centre. Leylin could definitely rely on it to get his resources and improve his progress quickly.

“Lo... Lord... The broth is ready...”

Seeing that Leylin had finished with his meditation today, Ivy hurriedly scooped a bowl of broth and brought it to Leylin.

“You have worked hard!”

Leylin smiled at Ivy and took the bowl.

Ivy looked at Leylin’s unfathomable eyes that had endless depths and stared at them blankly, her eyes lifeless.

“This is...” Leylin had a slight shock and immediately reached out a hand glowing in white light as he tapped Ivy’s forehead.

“Lord! Just now...” Very soon Ivy recovering, yet she did not dare to look into Leylin’s eyes again.

“This is a circumstance of mine which I did not restrain properly earlier. In the future do not be this careless again...” Leylin understood what had just transpired.

It was the result that the A.I. Chip indicated earlier, elemental essence conversion progress: 1%.

When Magi continued to improve their progress of elemental essence conversion, the Spiritual Force radiated will bring about a strong power which was attributed to the elements.

Ivy losing her bearings earlier was considered as a mild effect.

If Leylin had had an elemental essence conversion of 50% and above, and by not restraining himself, in that situation Ivy would most likely have been attacked by the Darkness energy particles and thus would have become a shrivelled corpse

As for different elemental energy particles, the final elemental conversion would also be reflected differently.

For example: if a Magus chose the Ice energy particles as the attribute to cultivate with, he would be able to freeze the Spiritual Force of anyone who stares into the said Magus’s eyes.

As for those who cultivated in Fire energy particles, enemies who probed their Spiritual Force would be burnt, even suffering from a backlash.

Leylin cultivated in the Darkness energy particles, which was emphasized more towards the aspect of a person's Spiritual Force and soul. In later stages, if regular humans were to come into contact with his high-density elemental essence conversion, their soul would immediately perish, their physical bodies decomposing into a shrivelled corpse.

“Sorr...sorry!” Ivy lifted her skirt and bowed, hurriedly moving out of the way.

Seeing that the girl was unharmed, Leylin nodded his head and poured the meat broth into his mouth.

The warm savoury meat broth laced with bites of fresh mushroom excited Leylin's palette.

“This tastes pretty good! I guess you have not eaten yet too?”

Leylin looked at Ivy, now with his eyes back to normal there was no chance of causing unintended harm anymore.

“Yes!”

Ivy softly replied. She helped herself to some dry rations and a bowl of broth. Together with Leylin, they feasted.

Leylin looked at Ivy and let out the slightest sigh of relief.

If this was the past, Ivy would surely be treated like a princess by her own family.

However, this present way of living by roughing it out in the open would surely help her to mature quickly.

“After you are done eating, come find me in my tent. I need a sample of your blood!”

Leylin gobbled his food quickly and said to Ivy.

The underlying reason he saved Ivy was not due to kindness but to use her Warlock’s bloodline for his research.

Chapter 134: Upgrade

Out in the wilderness, the night was freezing cold. Even the blazing bonfire was unable to dispel the chill in the air.

Inside the tent, however, it was much warmer — enough to make one feel slumberous.

Leylin waited for a few minutes and saw Ivy's silhouette shivering as she slowly got into the tent.

You could tell she was very nervous, her hands clutched tightly to her skirt hems, exposing her pale white ankles.

Fear was inscribed on a pair of beautiful eyes.

But it was as if her body was controlled by someone, as she advanced towards Leylin, step by step.

“Don't worry! It's very simple to take a sample, and it will not cause you any harm!” Leylin said, to try and pacify her.

“Please pull up your sleeve!”

Upon hearing Leylin's words, Ivy hesitated for a moment. She then pulled up her sleeve, revealing a length of her jade-white arms.

“It’s going to hurt a little, but don’t be afraid!”

Leylin took out a huge needle-like item from behind him and spoke gently to comfort the little girl.

Unfortunately, the little girl started to tremble even more severely.

With the girl’s arm in one hand, Leylin stuck the needle into the exposed vein on her arm.

Ivy’s face winced when the needle entered her vein as if she was about to cry but still forced herself to stay strong.

After drawing enough blood from Ivy, Leylin sent chased the little girl back to her own tent.

“Why does it feel like I was bullying a little girl?”

Leylin rubbed his chin as he looked at the needle in his hand.

No matter what, it was unsettling being on the receiving end of a “You bullied me” look given by a little girl.

“A.I. Chip, begin the experiment, and prepare the microscope...”

After being in a daze for several seconds, Leylin came to his senses and his expression turned solemn. His slender hands began to move expertly like butterflies treading and dancing through flowers.

Next morning, Leylin saw a pink liquid within the vulcanised tube and his expression looked unclear.

“A.I Chip, scan!” A blue light glowed within Leylin’s eyes, falling onto the test-tube.

[Beep! Detected a trace of ancient creature’s bloodline in the drop of blood. Pala Night Hawk! Unable to purify further!]

The A.I. Chip ended its feedback, turning Leylin’s face darker.

Ivy did carry a trace of an ancient bloodline, a pity that the inheritance of the Pala Night Hawk bloodline ends with her. The traces had already thinned to the absolute minimum and only a bit of aura could be extracted from her blood but it did not have many uses.

“From this density, even if Ivy was completely exsanguinated, or made to bleed some blood from time to time, it wouldn’t be enough to even purify a single drop of the pure ancient bloodline.”

However, Leylin did not feel particularly disappointed or anything similar to disappointment.

It wasn't that he would be successful with every single experiment of his. However, if one doesn't even try, there will be no chances of success.

He had learnt this lesson back in his previous life.

“Moreover, this bloodline that carries a trace of the ancient creature's aura, adding on with some of the broken magic artifacts pieces I've gotten in the secret plane, they could aid in the modification of the Fallen Star Pendant...”

A notion rose in Leylin's mind.

The Fallen Star Pendant was only a low-grade magic artifact which was useful back in his days as an acolyte. However, for Leylin now it was somewhat of little value.

The A.I. Chip had been given the task of researching the possibilities of upgrading the Fallen Star Pendant, and now it seemed to have borne some fruits.

However, Leylin was a Warlock now, if he was able to add some power of the bloodlines on top of the other ingredients needed for the upgrade, it would definitely achieve a better potential!

“A.I. Chip, establish this mission as a subtask: calculate the possibility of adding Ivy's bloodline into the Fallen Star Pendant!”

[Beep! Mission established, classified in a subfolder under the

mission of upgrading the Fallen Star Pendant!]

The A.I. Chip intoned promptly.

Although he was unable to purify the ancient bloodline, but he had obtained an ingredient that could complement the upgrade of the Fallen Star Pendant. So Leylin felt that he had reaped a huge benefit and hence his mood was uplifted, too.

The next morning, he even greeted Ivy during breakfast, which was something that he seldom did. This caused the little girl to be confused and out of sorts. Seeing this scene, Leylin laughed inwardly.

After eating breakfast, Leylin brought the little girl and carried on with the journey.

He even bought a horse carriage while making a stop at a town, putting out the misery of the little girl, who had had to walk all along.

The reason why he did this was not because of kindheartedness. It was because the little girl provided him with blood every day, and while Leylin brewed some potions to replenish the blood, her mental state did not seem very well as her face was as pale as dead people.

After purchasing the horse carriage, Leylin led his life even more leisurely. He would journey when the sun was up, and at night, he

would continue to extract the essence from the Pala Night Hawk bloodline to upgrade the Fallen Star Pendant.

“Dawn’s Peak! According to our speed, we should be able to reach the Great Canyon Margaret tomorrow!”

Leylin pointed to a mountain which peak was amongst the clouds as he spoke to Ivy behind him.

“... ”Ivy looked at the landmark in front of her and clutched her knees in silence.

His eyelids hung low, not knowing if it was because of the fears of what the future would bring, or because of bewilderment.

“The ingredients gathered are now sufficient. I will upgrade the Fallen Star Pendant tonight!” thought Leylin.

Naturally, he controlled the pace of the journey, so he was able to obtain enough blood right before reaching the Great Canyon Margaret tomorrow.

In the middle of the night.

The surroundings were dark and serene, and from time to time the sounds of insects and howls of wolves could be heard.

Ivy was in a deep sleep within the tent beside the horse carriage.

As for her who was in deep slumber, her eyelids twitched continuously, as if dreaming of a nightmare.

Seeing her in this manner, Leylin heaved a sigh of relief and returned to the horse carriage.

“A.I. Chip, simulate the start of the experiment!”

Leylin set up an illuminating spell and lit the interiors of the horse carriage.

In the middle, several wood boxes were set up in a flat platform with some apparatus displayed on it.

In the middle of all was a silver grey cross, with several fragments of jewels on it.

This was the original shape of the Fallen Star Pendant. Ever since he had advanced into a rank 1 Warlock, he had rarely used it.

The Fallen Star Pendant’s physical and magic defense were both valid for at most 20 degrees. As for any rank 1 spell cast by an official Magus, it would exceed these limits.

Hence, Leylin would think of methods to raise the capabilities of the Fallen Star Pendant, hoping for it to be of use again.

[Simulation for experiment over, success rate to be 87.9%.] After a flash of blue light, the A.I. Chip reported a string of data back to Leylin.

Right now, the A.I. Chip could simulate most parts of the experiment and produce the success rate. This meant that as long as Leylin followed the steps given by the A.I. Chip, he could attain the same success rate that was indicated.

As for those magicians who painstakingly gathered ingredients yet not knowing their success rate, the A.I. Chip's capabilities showed that it could save Leylin a huge amount of resources.

So much so that this capability could even be employed during an advancement.

If the A.I. Chip's success rate was too low, Leylin could give up on the advancement and amass more resources before trying to breakthrough. This was much better after comparing this with other magicians who try to breakthrough in the dark and even suffer from a backlash.

“First of all, it's to separate the ingredients for the magic artifact!”

Leylin looked at the other items placed on the platform.

There was half a dagger and a broken arm. These spoils of war were obtained by Leylin during the bloodbath in the secret plane.

Although some time had passed, the arm still shone with a silver light, completely concealing the fact that it was a human arm made of flesh.

“Silver-Claw Saurun actually imbued his magic artifact into his own arm, what a crazy fellow!”

Leylin picked up the silver arm and placed it within a golden funnel, setting it alight at the bottom.

A golden yellow flame continued to swirl in the funnel, turning the funnel red.

The blazing temperature continued to radiate from the hand. Once Leylin noticed the change, he began to drip some blue fluid, drop by drop, onto the arm.

The blue liquid fell onto the arm, turning into red immediately, extending it towards the whole arm.

The temperature increased yet again.

Leylin was ecstatic as he placed a transparent beaker below the funnel.

Pitter-patterPitter-patter Droplets of silver liquid continued to drip down.

Very soon, this liquid filled up half of the beaker.

Leylin's right hand rapidly gathered some powder and jewels and tossed it into the beaker, while his left hand reached for a metal wire and stirred the beaker.

The powder and jewels melted immediately upon entering the beaker, and the silver liquid began to turn muddy.

A dozen minutes later, there were two obvious layers in the beaker. On top was a liquid the colour of flesh, and at the bottom, it was a layer that was pure silver in colour.

.....

After being busy for a while, Leylin looked at the several ingredients laid in front of him with a gleeful expression.

The formerly mentioned dagger and silver arm had not turned into two blocks of black and grey metal as they shone with lustre.

As for the Fallen Star Pendant, it was now submerged within a beaker. The beaker was half filled with pink blood with the scent of orchids

“Keliesiding Guraweier Alongsuo....”

Leylin chanted an incantation as he made a cut on his finger,

dropping a dark red drop of blood into the beaker.

Bang!

Once the dark red blood entered the beaker, it immediately had a chemical reaction.

The pink coloured gases continued to rise and the blood began bubbling.

Threads of red liquid continuously climbed onto the Fallen Star Pendant, turning the original silver-grey colour into a dark red colour.

After the blood in the beaker completely evaporated, the Fallen Star Pendant turned into a dark red cross.

“What’s next is to modify the runes inscription!”

Leylin’s expression turned extremely solemn. This was the most crucial step to upgrade the Fallen Star Pendant!

Chapter 135: Angler Town

[Modifying the Fallen Star Pendant's runes inscription, increasing illusory runes to make Host compatible with its control.]

A.I. Chip sounded at this very moment.

Blue light flashed across Leylin's eyes, and many transparent patterns began appearing on the surface of the Fallen Star Pendant.

Next, all he needed to do was to proceed with the modifications according to the transparent patterns on the Fallen Star Pendant.

And the A.I. Chip could assist Leylin during his inscription process, so there would not be any mistakes.

Using a pair of tweezers to fish the Fallen Star Pendant onto a white cloth, Leylin took out a solid inscription pen and started to finely carve on the surface of the cross.

At this point, his hand was like a steel sculpture — it was as steady as possible, without even a single tremor.

This required an enormous amount of attentiveness and endurance and consumed a lot of time and energy.

As time passed, beads of sweat started to drip from Leylin's forehead.

[Fallen Star Pendant's runes modification is a success! It has newly added reinforced runes, energy dissipation runes, extension runes...]

As he listened to A.I. Chip's reminders, Leylin revealed a smile.

Immediately, he picked up another inscription pen from beside him. It had grooves on its body and was just as solid.

“Next, I shall fill in these carvings!”

Leylin lit two beakers and proceeded to melt the raw materials he had separated earlier from the magic artifacts. Those beakers now contained only liquids.

Subsequently, Leylin followed a fixed proportion and mixed the two liquids together.

Leylin played with the grooves on the pen and it split open, revealing a hole to pour water into.

Immediately, he poured the concentrated silvery black liquid into the body of the pen.

Fine runes started to twinkle and flicker around the inscription

pen, producing an enchanting radiance.

With a face of satisfaction, Leylin pushed the pen nib against the tracks of the inscriptions carved earlier on, repeating the process again.

But this time, the pen left silvery black liquid in its trail, filling every notch of the inscription.

After finishing the last stroke, Leylin sized up the completely reformed cross and nodded his head with satisfaction.

“Activate!”

Leylin used the ancient Byron language and read out two words.

Pong A cylindrical beam of gray light began to emit from the cross. Threads of silver light were moving along the rune inscriptions that Leylin had carved earlier.

As the silvery gray rays kept blending, they got brighter and eventually engulfed the Fallen Star Pendant in it.

When the rays completely vanished, the Fallen Star Pendant had changed in appearance entirely.

It only retained the shape of the cross but was bulkier than before.

Also, it had changed from a silvery black colour to a shade of dark red.

On the surface there were numerous fine and detailed rune inscriptions, causing the original fragments of gems to be concealed beneath it.

Leylin then took the dark red Fallen Star Pendant, noting its weight was heftier than before.

[Beep! Fallen Star Pendant's upgrade is now successful with those middle-grade magic artifacts! Current Physical Defence: 24, Magic Defence: 25!] A.I. Chip sounded again, bringing Leylin the good news.

“Physical defence rose from 13 to 24, and magic defence rose from 15 to 25! Not bad, really not bad!”

This range almost surpassed the Scales of Kemoyin's defense. It was almost equivalent to gaining another innate defensive spell. Leylin was naturally very pleased.

But there were a lot of other magic artifacts that have better innate spells. They would have another increase in power and defense in the future.

As for the Fallen Star Pendant, unless he finds even more precious materials to upgrade, it would be difficult to increase its

defensive characteristics as per Leylin's requirements.

Hence, in the long run, concentrating on his own innate spells was more dependable.

“In the south coast, acolyte ranks use beginner grade magic artifacts. Level 1 Magi use middle-grade magic artifacts and the occasional beginner grade magic artifacts. Only the extremely powerful level 2 Magi have the capability to get hold of high-grade magic artifacts!”

Leylin thought of the information he saw from the Book of Giant Serpent.

Although the era of the great Magus Serholm was somewhat distant, the general distribution of power and culture throughout the south coast could be seen.

Now that the Fallen Star Pendant had been promoted to a middle-grade magic artifact, it's effective for Leylin as a level 1 Warlock. This, of course, put him in a good mood.

.....

The Great Canyon Margaret spanned across the Inlan Dukedom and several nearby kingdoms. It was also a place that was necessary to travel through to enter the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, controlled by the Light Magi.

Of course, this was only with regards to Magi.

Ordinary citizens of this dukedom seldom step out of the kingdom, from their birth until their death. Even their mercenaries only received missions within the kingdom.

Mercenaries and wandering bards who had travelled the vicinity could use the experience they gained to flaunt or gain respect.

“Great Canyon Margaret is filled with danger. Even a hastened journey takes several months...”

Leylin slightly frowned as he thought over the information about the Great Canyon.

Transportation in the Magus World was inconvenient, causing a great deal of inconvenience for magicians who travel far and wide.

Of course, he had another choice — he could ride in an airship.

But unfortunately, not only was this mode of transportation costly, there was only a fixed number of dates per year for its departure. Furthermore, there were stringent requirements for passengers. They needed a local family or an organisation to be their guarantor.

Leylin was already on the wanted list of Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. So naturally, he wouldn't wait for the airship and had to rush by foot.

“Your parent’s good friend, that Aunt Marian, where does she live?”

Leylin asked Ivy, who was behind him.

“Angler Town beside the Great Canyon!” Ivy said in a low voice.

Leylin nodded. This girl’s blood had greatly helped him. Besides, there was no clash in the itinerary. Under such circumstances, he didn’t mind lending a helping hand.

“Well then! I will first send you to Angler Town to find your Aunt Marian!”

Leylin told Ivy.

“L...Lord! Is it okay if I followed you around?”

After what Leylin said, Ivy stayed silent for a moment before asking this question.

“Oh? But why? I did not treat you very well!”

Leylin was surprised. When he crossed over, he was from nobility, a respected Magus acolyte. He’d never taken care of anyone before. Ivy even suffered a small illness on this journey. Things would have taken a bad turn if Leylin wasn’t a Potions

master.

Moreover, every now and then, Leylin had to take from Ivy a big tube of blood. He simply could not comprehend why this girl would still want to continue following him.

Maybe, I was too charming? Or was she so oppressed that twisted feelings began emerging?

Leylin let his imagination run as he rubbed his chin.

“Is this for revenge?” But, he soon figured out what the girl had in mind.

Ivy lowered her head, obviously tacitly agreeing.

“Ivy you should be aware that due to the genetic constitution of your family, before you can find the lost meditation technique, you’ll never be able to be an apprentice. Even I can’t do anything about it!”

Only because Ivy and Leylin were inheritors of the same ancient bloodline, he felt that he should clarify it with her.

“I know! But I request from you to get me vengeance! For this reason, I’m willing to suffer any consequence!”

The little girl made her last effort.

“My apologies. Magus advocate fair transactions. And regardless of your wealth, health or spirit, it is not enough for me to deal with another official Magus!”

Leylin did not hesitate to reject the girl’s plea.

Upon hearing Leylin’s ruthless yet very real words, Ivy’s shoulders trembled, hugged her knees as she sat in the carriage and fell silent.

Soon, the carriage entered Angler Town.

This was obviously a Magus gathering area. There were little, almost none, ordinary people, and the architecture of the buildings around portrayed a gloomy style that appeared cold and weird. Even the atmosphere was filled with a moist putrefying stench.

“This kind of place doesn’t seem very good!”

Leylin frowned. According to his experience, these kinds of dangerous district beside the major transportation road, dwells those who harbors bad thoughts, Magus who have nowhere to turn to. Simply put, wanted criminals!

Leylin felt bad for Ivy. They followed the street and eventually got to the number plate Ivy had reported before.

Appearing in front of Leylin was a dilapidated two-story loft. Black wooden planks on the verge of collapsing revealed a decadent atmosphere.

The first floor had been converted to look like a grocery store. But it didn't seem to be doing very well, and the people who entered were but a few.

Parking the carriage at a side, Leylin pulled Ivy's hand as they entered the grocery store.

"Marian! Is Marian here?" Leylin yelled out. He did not attempt to conceal the energy fluctuations in his body as the road to Angler Town was unimpeded.

"Respected Magus Lord, how may I serve you?"

Before Leylin could finish his words, an obese middle-aged lady with a greasy grey apron and thick makeup made her way out, expressing humility and flattery.

If it wasn't for the level 3 acolyte's aura she had on her body, with this kind of image, she looked exactly like an unkind housewife.

"Is this Marian?" Leylin asked Ivy who was standing at a corner.

"Yes... Yes!" Ivy nodded her head. Leylin finally understood why Ivy was so unwilling.

By the looks of it, Ivy's parents probably did not have anyone else to turn to back then. Hence, they allowed their housekeeper to send Ivy to Marian.

"This is Ivy! Any impression?" Leylin pulled Ivy in front of him.

"John's daughter?!" Marian's face changed slightly. "About the Langster family matter, I feel sad..." Marian said as she squeezed out a few drops of tears.

"...Back then, I just happened to pass by and the housekeeper begged me to bring her here..."

Leylin briefly spoke about the cause and effects.

Upon hearing that she has to offer shelter for Ivy again, Marian's face completely turned embarrassed, as if things were already difficult for her. Leylin reckoned, if he wasn't around, Ivy would have already been chased away.

"Since it is what the Lord wants, then alright!" She replied with an ugly smile after struggling for a long time.

Chapter 136: Broken Axe Pub

Leylin rushed the carriage forward, wandering aimlessly around the streets.

He thought about Ivy and how she looked like a little puppy that was being abandoned. Even now, the sight felt a little bit laughable.

Magi always advocated voluntary transactions.

The way Leylin saw it was that while Ivy provided him with blood, he brought Ivy on the journey to this place. He even demonstrated his might to find her a place to sleep for the near future. This should have been enough to pay her back for her contribution.

In regards to bringing her along on the journey, Leylin felt that he didn't have the spare time to take care of such a cumbersome being.

Not to mention, if there was no suitable Warlock meditation method for her, Ivy would never be able to become a level 1 acolyte.

Warlock meditation methods were straining on blood vessels. Just like Leylin's Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique, it was limited to only Warlocks who came from the bloodline of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent or its subspecies.

Other Warlocks and Magi would not be able to practice this technique even if they had the Kemoyin's Pupil technique. It could only serve as a reference for them.

While thinking, Leylin rushed the carriage and arrived at the heart of the town.

As he went deeper into town, Leylin saw that the average strength of passersby were greater. At the heart of the town, he saw a few level 2 acolytes and even a few other official Magi.

All of the official Magi here wore cloaks and mantles, and their faces were covered by a face flannel— almost as if they did not want anyone to recognise them.

In general, Magi who'd risk passing through the Grand Canyon Margaret rather than riding the airship were usually individuals who had been classified as criminal scum who were on the run.

Some of them had offended local forces and had been forced to flee. Others simply had to flee to save their lives because someone hankered after something they possessed.

As a result, abruptly using detection spells here was often the cause of a huge battle.

Leylin looked at the crystal watch that he was wearing, whose hands were showing five past noon.

The sky slowly darkened, and the pedestrians present on the road lessened.

Approaching the centremost pub, Leylin knocked on the somewhat rotten door.

Dong Dong! A dull noise reverberated throughout the somewhat empty street, even drawing the caws from a couple ravens.

“Who are you?” The wooden door quickly opened, and a long-haired man with sparse wispy hair appeared, sizing Leylin up.

“I wish to pass through the Great Canyon Margaret and I hear that I will be able to find a means of transportation nearby...”

Leylin used a shroud to cover his face. The voice that emanated from within sounded somewhat gruff.

“Great Canyon Margaret? Are you a Magus Lord?”

The old geezer patted his head, and immediately opened the wooden door, “Greetings, Sir! What you say is correct; the Broken Axe Pub is the only place where you can find the Seated Lupin Wolf...”

This old man was just an acolyte, but it was obvious that he had seen the world, and that he knew both how to read a situation and

how to protect himself.

Leylin nodded his head and walked into the Broken Axe Pub.

He had already enquired before coming; the Great Canyon Margaret was always surrounded with terrifying sandstorms and it required several months to traverse it.

Also, there were a lot of hidden dangers in areas of the canyon. Being filled with dangerous swamps full of poisonous insects and the like, even horses could not be used in there.

Even Magi had lost their lives in some of the most dangerous spots!

Hence, forming a group and riding the Seated Lupin Wolf was the only way to get across the Great Canyon Margaret.

This particular pub was extremely quiet, up to the point of it being somewhat eerie.

Under the dim lighting, long chairs were placed along some partitioned rooms and sofas in the surroundings.

The little cubicle had three walls. Only the side facing the bar was wide open, as if the cubicle was a recess into the wall.

In the hall, several magicians sat in groups, drinking different

coloured alcoholic drinks from time to time.

Leylin sniffed the aroma, and made out that the alcoholic content was extremely low, only meant to taste good, and not to induce drunkenness.

The magicians in the lobby were mostly level 3 acolytes. There were also several official Magi.

Leylin came in front of a horseshoe-shaped counter, sat down, and watched a bartender in a black western-looking suit.

“Sir! Do you want an ‘Ice Mountain Beauty’? Many magicians love this drink!” The bartender smiled and asked.

“I’ll have a cup! How much is it?” Under the dim lighting, Leylin’s tone sounded lazy.

“3 magic crystals!”

It was a very steep price that normal acolytes would definitely not be able to afford. Moreover, only the currency of magicians was accepted.

Leylin nodded his head nonchalantly, tossing a middle grade magic crystal to the bartender. “I’ll just have one cup! Furthermore, I wish to employ a Seated Lupin Wolf. Give me the information I require, and the remainder will be yours!”

Without a word, the bartender accepted the magic crystal. His hands moved swiftly, shaking the silver mixer on his hand, and drawing a few shiny arcs in the air.

“Sir, are you preparing to travel across the Great Canyon Margaret? Although the sandstorms have stopped, there have been rumours of a pack of Kary Vultures having seized the route leading towards the single necessary replenishing point. How about forming a group before setting off?”

The bartender shook the mixer in his hands as he explained to Leylin.

“Kary Vultures?”

Leylin’s brows furrowed. This was one of the mystical creatures in the Magus World. In its mature stages, a Kary Vulture was comparable to a level 3 acolyte. As for the King Kary Vulture, it had an existence equivalent to a rank 1 Magus.

If there really was such a group of Kary Vultures occupying the single route towards the canyon leading to the supply point, a traveller’s plan to cross the canyon would be compromised.

“All of these things that you have said were told to you by someone else, no?”

Leylin did not answer and stared at the bartender, before

suddenly speaking up.

“Yes! Several official Magi have already formed small groups, and they’re lacking a few members. Hence, they had to stay in this area, and entrusted me to find a suitable member for them...”

The bartender smiled as he placed a drink with large amounts of ice on top and alcohol below to Leylin. It looked like a mountain of ice.

“Your ‘Ice Mountain Beauty’, Sir!”

Leylin raised the glass. There was a layer of thin frost around it, and even the alcohol inside had somewhat frozen over.

The refreshing cocktail entered his mouth, and the chill even spread from his throat to his four limbs.

The ice cold feeling subsided, and a fiery sensation followed. At first, it was extremely faint, but the heat grew stronger and stronger, even overcoming the previous iciness.

This feeling of freezing and burning was extremely strange, indeed worthy of its price of 3 magic crystals.

“Good wine! It has been a while since I’ve had such good liquor!”

Leylin slightly closed his eyes for a moment, exhaled a breath of

contentedness, and said to the bartender.

“It is an honour to have satisfied my customer!” The bartender bowed slightly.

“Very well!” Leylin gulped down another mouthful of the ‘Ice Mountain Beauty’ before saying, “I wish to meet with the group before considering joining them or not!”

“Of course. In fact, the group was formed by solo travellers, so they have been staying here...”

The bartender smiled and nodded his head...

Half a month later, many acolytes respectfully and sincerely sent off six figures riding big black wolves out of Angler Town.

The Seated Lupin Wolves were matte black in colour, with a patch of red fur on the crowns of their heads. There were also two golden yellow rings on their forelimbs, which were securely linked to their necks.

Each wolf was over 5 metres tall and 2 metres wide. Their appearances looked extremely vicious, and every step they took spanned the distance of several metres, so their movements were extremely quick.

Moreover, the Seated Lupin Wolf’s back had two hump-like bulges, which were suitable for travellers to rest.

These Seated Lupin Wolves were provided by the Broken Axe Pub at the rate of five hundred magic crystals per wolf. After reaching the destination, the travellers would release them, and they would run back to where they came from.

At this moment, Leylin was seated comfortably on the back of a wolf. He rose and fell on the strong and healthy back with his eyes half closed, seizing the opportunity to rest.

Even though he was travelling on the Seated Lupin Wolf, traversing the Grand Canyon Margaret would require at least two months. The route also had a lot of dangers, so it was necessary that he conserve his energy and physical strength.

With the introduction of the bartender, he had several meetings with the small group before deciding to join them.

It would be very difficult for a lone magician to face the vile environment of the Great Canyon Margaret, and even break the watch of those Kary Vultures.

Moreover, Leylin confirmed that the other party members were in the same situation as him, forming a party at the very last minute, so he was not afraid of them colluding against him.

Even with Leylin's entry, the group members felt that their safety was not guaranteed.

After having waited for an additional half a month, it was only the previous day that another official Magus had joined them, and the group had decided to set off.

During that half a month, Leylin had been dwelling within the pub while keeping a low profile. It could have been that the Yale family and the Lilytell family had ran out of leads, so they had not decided to search here, enabling Leylin to avoid a huge battle.

Thinking about this, Leylin took a look at the members of his group.

Due to fact that the group was only a temporary one, in addition to the wariness of the magicians, more than half of the group members' faces had been concealed. Only an old, white-haired geezer and a voluptuous female magician did not conceal their countenances.

Other magicians were the same as Leylin, with half of their faces wrapped, and appearing cold and detached.

All of these magicians emitted the energy waves of a rank 1 Magus. The Great Canyon Margaret was too dangerous for any acolytes, so apart from any special circumstances, acolytes seldom chose this route.

The roasting sun shone with a comfortable warmth onto his body, causing Leylin to crave a good sleep.

As the surroundings turned dark green, the short shrubs bowed down to the Seated Lupin Wolf as they passed. This caused Leylin to think that he had arrived at the grasslands of Chernobyl Islands.

The Great Canyon Margaret was extremely vast, spanning across several kingdoms.

Moreover, rumours had it that originally, there was no great canyon and that in fact, it had been formed by two unknown, high ranked Magi fighting.

Looking down from the sky, the Great Canyon Margaret seemed like a wound created on the body of the south coast.

However, Leylin still expressed his skepticism towards such a myth. Breaking apart half a continent should have required at least a rank 7 or 8 Magus. In the recorded history of the south coast, there had been no mentions of Magi of such ranking having ever appeared.

Even if they had come from another continent, why would they have specifically chosen this place for their battle?

Chapter 137: Seated Lupin Wolf

No matter what the legend said, due to the double influences of topography and magic radiation, the Grand Canyon Margaret suffered from strange geographical conditions and an ever-changing natural climate.

In the Great Canyon Margaret, various terrains such as grasslands, mountains, forests, marshes, and deserts could be seen.

Moreover, one moment, there might be rain, and in the next moment, a terrifying thunderstorm.

As for the enormous intermittent sandstorms, they were a calamity that even official Magi had to escape from.

Fortunately, the large scale sandstorms had their specific timings, so this passage was not completely out of the question.

Advancing through such an environment was a severe test for a Magus' physical body and spiritual force.

As for the Seated Lupin Wolf, it was a unique species that grew up within the Grand Canyon Margaret.

As if undergoing evolution and modification through radiation, the original species of mountain wolves, in the span of a long time, had evolved into an organism that was completely capable of

adapting to the terrain and climate of the Great Canyon Margaret.

As for the magicians on both sides of the Great Canyon Margaret, they captured, tamed, and transformed these wolves into a necessary tool for traveling through the Great Canyon Margaret.

According to Leylin's guesses, behind the Broken Axe Pub, there were definitely one or more large Magus families that had joined hands. If not, they wouldn't be able to reap in such sizable benefits from this huge territory.

Pu

The sturdily built Seated Lupin Wolves continuously dashed across the grassland, bounding forward from time to time to avoid the obstacles ahead.

Their sharp canine teeth and claws were enough to deal with most of the wild creatures, saving the magicians from having to cast spells, and letting them rest.

Rumble

In a split second, the initially bright sky was covered by clouds, and snake-like lightning rolled across the sky, sounding out rumbling thunder.

The most mysterious thing was that on Leylin's side, the weather was still fine. One side of the sky was clear, while the other was

ominous, filling it with a type of indescribable aesthetic beauty.

“It’s a thunderstorm! Pay attention and avoid getting wet!”

The leader, an old geezer, spoke from the forefront.

A vote had passed in the party, finally choosing the two who would show their faces as the temporary leaders.

“Damn!” Leylin’s ears twitched as he heard a female traveller from the front complain.

However he did not bother with her, only drawing out a large tarpaulin from the sack on the Seated Lupin Wolf and draping it over his body.

Hu Hu Hu

The speed of the wolves was extremely quick, so after a dozen minutes, they entered the region of thunderstorms.

The cold wind was whizzing, mimicking knives slashing against everyone’s faces.

Pitter-patter Not long later, bean-sized raindrops fell, rapidly turning into a heavy downpour.

Under the rain, the grassland had now turned into a marsh.

The muddy ground hindered the footsteps of the wolves. As for those blind spots, they were littered with the traps of quicksand. Once someone was to step into one, they would very soon be swallowed whole.

Pu

The wolf Leylin was riding on sounded a long hiss, and immediately, its four wolf paws gave out white light.

Streaks of light began to form within the white dizzying glow. When the rays of light began to disperse, a thick coat of wolf fur could be seen above their paws.

When the fur was spread out, it resembled a hoof.

Ta Ta The wolf proceeded on water as if it was flat ground. The speed of the entire team got faster.

“A creature formed from a combination of nature and magic, truly magical!”

Leylin sighed in admiration as he gently caressed the wolf’s hump in front of him,

At this instant, the wolf hair on the hump gathered and became

similar to a layer of skin, sticking onto the surface of the wolf. It had a layer of oil, causing it to resemble a raincoat.

Rain continued to roll off the body of the wolf, and not a drop remained on the wolf.

“This is only an ordinary mount. Hearsay indicates that within the Light Magus region, endless other magical mounts exist. Some were natural, and were captured from the wild, and others were manmade, causing them to be bizarre and exotic.” Leylin’s eyes began to display an expression of yearning.

With the speed of the wolf, they were able to make it before dark. Leylin and his party finally managed to rush out of the torrential rain zone and entered a stone forest.

“Tonight, we shall rest here. Pitch your tents and leave the wolves around the perimeter. Don’t forget to feed them!” The female magician yelled.

Upon hearing that, the magicians restrained and fed their mounts. They also began to pitch their tents in the stone forest.

Very soon, a circle of black tents was seen assembled closely together. The Seated Lupin Wolves were circling around the tents, laying low, as if keeping vigil.

In a special tent, Leylin finished his meditation and looked at his status.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 28.3, Magic Power: 28 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 1%. Status: Healthy]

The progress for a magician was always a gradual one. After so many days of meditation, Leylin's spiritual force had only increased by 0.1. However, compared to the Magi who do not use high-grade resources to simulate their spiritual force growth, Leylin only had to persevere in meditation every day in order for his spiritual force to grow. This pace was considered overpowered!

As for the elemental essence conversion, not only it was one of the requirements to advance to a rank 2 Magus, it was another crucial method to increase the might of rank 1 spells, so it could not be neglected either.

Leylin had already somewhat discovered the Warlock's flaws.

As a small branch of the ancient magicians, not only did Warlocks have to unearth the power of their bloodline, they also could not neglect on their cultivation as a magician.

This meant that the advancement requirements for Warlocks were the same as those for Magi. Moreover, they had the limitations of their bloodline.

Even when a rank 1 Warlock would have reached the

advancement criteria, if the concentration of his bloodline was not high enough, then the advancement would most likely fail, or not have an innate spell after their advancement. According to the A.I. Chip's simulation, this was very possible!

This was indeed the case if given more thought. If the path of Warlocks was that superior, the whole Magus World would have been predominantly Warlocks and not the currently observed situation.

However, with such severe conditions for advancement, once a Warlock managed to break through, their might would often surpass that of a Magus of the same rank!

For Leylin, his personal advantage made it more suitable for him to walk the path of a Warlock.

After he finished meditating, Leylin got up and left the tent.

“Wu wu!” A Seated Lupin Wolf, which was laying beside Leylin's tent, whimpered, slightly lifting its tall stature.

“Eat this!” Leylin took a large blue cod from his sack and fed the wolf.

The Seated Lupin Wolf growled with excitement and raised its giant red tongue that had white moss to gnaw on the fish.

As the tongue swept past Leylin's right hand, he could feel a

warm, moist sensation.

Although the wolf could hunt for its own food, only specific kinds of foods could keep up with their daily intake as a beast of burden.

“Hello, Lancey!”

The tent beside Leylin’s opened and a provocative and revealing figure walked out. Leylin rubbed his nose as he made his greeting.

During the allocation, he was assigned to be a pair with this woman.

“You’re here to feed the wolves too?” Lancey nodded her head, as she took out some cod to feed the wolf beside her.

Each and every move of this woman had a sense of loneliness behind it. Leylin felt that this was a woman with a story to tell.

Of course, every magician who wanted to travel through the Great Canyon Margaret had a story behind them.

Although Leylin did not know why this female Magus wanted to escape to the Light Magi domain, he was sensible enough to not ask.

“Listen! I hear the slight hymn of the wind! Look! The white

clouds which are freely floating in the skies~”

At this moment, a rock beside the two of them trembled. A sprite, which was fully brown in colour and was wearing a Scottish costume, suddenly emerged and played its harp while singing.

Looking at the rock sized sprite, Lancey covered her mouth as she gasped.

“It’s the Brownstone Singer! I heard that they were extinct! I never thought that I’d see one here...”

Before Leylin could speak, the old geezer leader came out from the tent, while exclaiming in admiration when he saw the sprite strumming on top of a rock.

“Brownstone Singer?” Leylin recalled the data regarding these creatures. “It seems to be one of the rumoured creatures that possess mysterious abilities, but don’t have much attack strength!”

“What adorable creatures!” Stars seem to shine in Lancey’s eyes, and she could not resist the temptation to try and touch them.

“The energy waves that they emit are so weak— I wonder how they survived till now?”

“Let me capture them and slowly conduct my research!” A large bloke who heard the banter walked out with a disdainful expression.

Hu Following his demand, a layer of stone skin appeared on his hands as he tried to grab the sprite.

“You, stop!” Lancey frowned, but his words obviously did not carry much effect.

The large bloke did not even stop and immediately grabbed the Brownstone Singer. The sprite stared blankly, before crying out and turning into mud yellow light dots, which disappeared in the hands of the large bloke.

“This... what just happened?”

“The Brownstone Singer is a creature that is naturally formed from nature. They are able to harmonise with the earth energy particles within the air. Magi who do not have an elemental essence conversion of 80% or above would not even be able to touch them!”

The old geezer leader said.

“Moreover, they are really timid! After getting scared off by you, they might never come back!” Leylin added on.

Upon hearing what Leylin said, the old man was astounded as he looked at Leylin. “I cannot believe that you actually know such information, which has been neglected by many!”

“I just happened to come across it while reading an ancient compendium...” Leylin replied modestly.

At this moment, the discussion had aroused the curiosity of the others Magi from the camp and brought them here.

“There’s still a little bit more!” Leylin looked at the huge bloke with a pitiful gaze.

“Legends have it that those who have been touched by a Brownstone Singer, regardless of their gender, would get pregnant!”

Chapter 138: Limestone Wasteland

“Are you kidding... Argh...”

The huge bloke had a sinister smile, but soon after he gave a miserable shriek.

The surrounding Magi also cried out in surprise, as if they'd seen something unbelievable.

Right in front of them, the huge bloke's belly began to slowly swell, taking the shape of a bulge.

Thinking back to what Leylin said earlier, Lancey was fearful yet relieved that she did not touch the Brownstone Singer like she wanted to.

Looking at the big bloke freaking out and hurrying back into his tent, drinking and consuming all sorts of items with medicinal properties, smiles were seen hanging on the faces of all the people at the site...

After appreciating the spectacle, they rested for the night and carried on their journey the next day.

The huge bloke had also recovered, but his complexion did not look very good.

Where magicians were concerned, to induce an abortion or to do a caesarean section, it was a small and simple operation that even one man could handle.

The effects of the Brownstone Singer might be frightening to a normal person. But for magicians, it was more of a practical joke than something to be feared.

“Due to the Grand Canyon Margaret’s topography, it became a paradise for many exotic creatures. Legends have it that you can still find trails of those that were said to be endangered or extinct here....”

Leylin secretly thought, as he saddled the Seated Lupin Wolf, and watched the surroundings slowly changed into an ash-gray rocky forest.

If it wasn’t because of Grand Canyon Margaret’s complex and ever-changing topography, and the huge sandstorm encircling it for a good part of the year, this canyon would have long become a natural resource mine for the magicians.

As time slowly passed by, the ash-gray rocky forest around Leylin and the others became shorter and shorter. Eventually, their surrounding only had fragmented small stones, resembling a barren land.

“Limestone Wasteland. We’ve already merged into the standard route. In the next ten days or so, we’ll be more at ease. But following this will be the frightful Golden Desert, where the Kary

Vultures gather. Everyone should maintain their energy, and prepare for the upcoming battle...”

The lead, an old geezer, yelled uninterrupted, as he rode a Seated Lupin Wolf that had a few strands of white beard on its face.

“Limestone Wasteland? A.I. Chip, bring out the map!” Leylin slightly lowered his head as a projection that only he could see was emitted.

On a simple map, there were general markings of the danger zones within the Grand Canyon Margaret. In the center, there was a twisted green route, that was linked from one side of the map to the other.

‘Kary Vultures Gathering Place’ was marked with an eye-catching red font, that was in the center of the green line which they have to pass through.

On the other two sides of the route, there were other extremely dangerous zones marked scarlet, which indicated that they cannot be traversed.

This only meant that making a detour was impossible.

If Leylin and the rest want to safely get across the Grand Canyon Margaret, the only way was to banish the Kary Vultures obstructing the route.

“Limestone Wasteland!”

Leylin found the range of the Limestone Wasteland on the blue map. It was a big ash-gray region.

Small words were written beside the region: “Limestone Wasteland! Verified as having an extremely low level of risk, and no high-energy life form was ever seen...”

Obviously, the Grand Canyon Margaret was explored by countless magicians on both sides and this was the best route to take to get across the canyon as it held the least risk.

As expected, once they entered the Limestone Wasteland, Leylin felt the Seated Lupin Wolf’s muscles and fur slightly loosen up, as if entering a relatively relaxed state.

“The concentration of energy in the air here is very less as if the air has some kind of leakage and causes the energy within it to be vaporised.”

Leylin snapped his fingers and a small ball of flame appeared on his palm. It trembled in the breeze as if it could be extinguished at any time.

If it were outside of this area, this small flaming wisp would be burning brightly, several folds brightly than now and its power would have been 1 degree or more.

“AI Chip, calculate this flame’s power.”

[Beep! Mission objective noted. Analysing the target. . . .completed! Flame’s power is 0.4238 degrees.] The AI Chip outputted the required data very quickly.

“As expected. The energy concentration in the air has been reduced. To cast spells here with complete power will cost even more strength than if cast outside of this place...”

Magicians and magical beasts all use the energy particles within the air to perform all sorts of unimaginable and marvellous magic. If the energy concentration in the air was less, the power of the spell cast will also be reduced.

Moreover, if a living being stayed in this place for a long time, it might undergo mutation.

As for those beings who knew magic, they would abhor these kinds of regions.

“This type of area, the Limestone Desert, looks like it was caused by a war between two highly-ranked Magi, as stated in the Book of Giant Serpent!”

Leylin now begins to believe the legend; the Grand Canyon Margaret was created by two great Magi during their battle.

But the Limestone Wasteland’s desert-like appearance was a good

thing for travellers like them.

At least, there was no need to worry about random, exotic species ambushing them along the way. They could rest and conserve energy.

This tranquil life lasted fifteen days.

Along the way, there experienced some bad weather and other situations. But it was not an issue for Leylin, who was a well-prepared magician.

The night before they were to walk out of this Limestone Wasteland, the old geezer, who was leading them all, and Lancey, gathered the six Magi .

“Starting tomorrow, we will be out of the Limestone Desert, and entering the Golden Desert!”

Under the illuminating flame, the old geezer’s wrinkled face showed uncertainty as his pair of pupils shone.

“At the heart of the Golden Desert, the third supply spot that we will pass by has been occupied by the abominable Kary Vultures. The reason why we formed small teams, was mostly for this! Now, it’s time to make the final decision!”

The old and tiny geezer looked around: “Will we kill the Vulture King as mentioned before, or merely expel them?”

“What else? Of course, we kill it!” The huge bloke who was teased by the Brownstone Singer took the lead and voiced out first.

“Materials made from the Vulture King can be sold for sell tens of thousands of magic crystals, and bar owners from both ends of the canyon will give extra rewards. Is there anything better than this?”

This was mentioned by the bartender from the Broken Axe Pub, who gave this small team an impromptu mission —— Kill the Kary Vulture King, do not let it leave alive!

Once this is done, not only will the materials obtained from the Vulture King belong entirely to the group, the pubs on both sides will also give a generous amount of magic crystals as a reward.

Because of the existence of the Kary Vultures, it had caused issues for cargos that were transported back and forth the canyon. It seems that the people involved can no longer tolerate it.

And the Kary Vultures were very vengeful creatures. If the Vulture King wasn't killed, it would gather more of its kind and hunt down any visible Magi.

The impromptu team Leylin was with, had a short discussion at the bar and agreed to the bartender's proposal.

After all, official Magi all lacked resources. They couldn't afford

to miss any opportunity to accumulate more resources.

What the old geezer had put forward, was only to make a final confirmation.

“Of course!” “Well, did we not agree on this before?”

The huge bloke’s words caused a resonance, and Leylin gently agreed. As long as it was appropriate, he did not mind giving his vote and gain some magic crystals.

“Great!” The old geezer smiled till the wrinkles on his face gathered together, resembling a chrysanthemum.

Seeing him like this, Leylin reckoned the Vulture King had an important material that the old geezer needed. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been so into this.

“Good! Then I’ll delegate tasks to everyone accordingly. The Kary Vultures are very cunning, their ability to fly makes battling them extremely troublesome. Those of you who know rank 1 flying magic

The leader old geezer started to deploy everyone.

Contrastingly Leylin remained uncommunicative; he did not voice out his expertise. He ended up with the role of assisting the attacker.

The old geezer's arrangement was quite fair. In accordance with the principles of "work more, get more", every magician was assigned a job within their capabilities and developed a detailed plan.

However, during the planning, the flying magicians who were tasked as attackers and responsible for intercepting had the privilege of selecting the spoils of war.

And the old geezer just had a showcase of his strange flying magic.

Flying was still a relatively rare ability amongst the rank 1 Magi. Not only is the specialised rank 1 flying magic rarely seen, it is also not practical.

Not unless they managed to obtain a few magic artifacts that could aid flying, like Bosain.

But, as far as rank 1 Magi were concerned, only middle-grade magic artifacts would be deemed useful. For example, that item in Bosain's hand — the liquefying metallic ball, called 'Bright Silver'. Although it was very useful for one at the acolyte level, for an official Magus it would have very low power and be considered to be very weak. The most important factor, speed, of that artifact had not reached a suitable standard and to use it to assist with flying would only be seen as a joke!

It was still rare to be able to master the rank 1 flying magic like

that old geezer leader.

A pair of pale green wings grew on the back of the old geezer. When he soared into the sky, Leylin keenly felt the currents and particles in the wind fluctuate. Evidently, the old geezer was a Magus who specialized in Wind element energy particles.

[According to the quantity of energy particles dispelled from the target's, determined to be of Wind element. Essence element conversion is 15-20%!]

A fine beam of blue flashed across Leylin's eyes.

The A.I. Chip could now judge other magicians during sudden bursts of energy, to determine the general stats of the opposite party.

But to get the most accurate data, it would still have to break through the protective force field of the target.

Unless he met a tenacious enemy, Leylin would never do something like that.

Before a rank 1 Magi's force field can be broken, the moment Leylin uses A.I. Chip to break through into the opponent's protective force field, it's as if Leylin had used his hands to peel off the other party's clothes. It would definitely lead to some extreme hatred from the other party. Leylin did not wish to make more enemies.

Or maybe he could wait for the A.I. Chip to upgrade again, and then he could break through into the other magician's force field without him noticing.

Leylin kept calculating in his heart, as he looked forward to such an ability.

Chapter 139: Sentinel Slate

The rain drizzled continuously, as if like a thread of yarn.

It pelted onto the tarpaulin Leylin had draped over his shoulders; it gave a cooling sensation.

Riding on the Seated Lupin Wolf that had a night's rest, Leylin appeared tranquil as he peered through the ashy haze, trying to look at the scenery ahead.

Whoosh

It was as if the curtains were pulled apart. Leylin felt like he had rushed out of a dense fog as extremely dazzling sunlight directly shined on them.

Rustling

Wolf claws slowly sunk into the countless grains of sand they were stepping on.

The rain-filled, dark clouds had gradually dispersed, and now the fiery sun had taken over the sky. It brought with it burning hot rays of brilliance, which constantly spread across the wide desert.

From what they could see, there was a field of gold as well as

modulating levels of sand dunes.

“Golden Desert, we’ve arrived!” Leylin felt the surrounding temperature increasing constantly. It must have gone up by at least twenty degrees since the rain earlier.

The sweltering humidity continuously flooded into the tarpaulin, and even with Leylin’s constitution, he felt a little uncomfortable.

Crash He hastily removed the tarpaulin and stripped off some clothes, and even then he only felt a little better.

This sudden change in temperature within the Grand Canyon Margaret was not unusual. If ordinary people came here, it would have been a torment for them. However for Leylin and his group, it was only a wee bit troublesome.

“Awoooooooooo!”

The leading Seated Lupin Wolf howled, and the rest of the wolves that were being ridden by the others also howled. It wasn’t clear if these howls were due to excitement or was meant as a warning.

With the howling of the wolves, Leylin noted that the body hairs on the Seated Lupin Wolf began to change.

The Seated Lupin Wolves had black fur, and only the head had a touch of bright red fur. But now in the hot sunlight, the wolf’s hair color gradually faded. Finally, it completely transformed into a

pale white color, then a streak of light blue lighted up from the wolf's body. The whole piece fur turned ice blue.

An icy breath emitted from the back of the wolf. The icy-cool feeling was very comfortable, especially in this desert.

“It actually even knows of the uses and the difference between thermal absorption properties of light and dark colors!”

Leylin could not help but to gasp in amazement of the adaptability of the Seated Lupin Wolf. Under the scorching rays of the sun, the ice blue fur was not affected by the heat as much as the dark fur. As for the fact that the Seated Lupin Wolf knew of these — it made Leylin feel somewhat shocked.

Moreover, they even applied the slight use of Ice element energy particles.

The Seated Lupin Wolf was undoubtedly the best creature to traverse the terrains of the Great Canyon Margaret!

The six huge wolves with icy blue fur gave off a chilly sensation. They very soon proceeded on their journey along with the Magi riding on them, and stepped into the Golden Desert which was 10 times more dangerous than the Limestone Wasteland.

Under the scorching rays, Leylin gulped down some more water.

With his vision and the A.I. Chip's detection, he had already

discovered many dangerous creatures in the nearby desert.

To put it bluntly, the level of danger in the Limestone Wasteland was the lowest in all of the terrains within the Great Canyon Margaret.

A dozen days before, the journey for Leylin and the others were extremely relaxed. There was no difference from an excursion, and the dangerous creatures they met were rare.

However, things were obviously different in here.

With the slightest observation, Leylin already discovered many dangerous lifeforms concealed within the sand dunes.

Six-Eyed Poison Snake, Golden Scorpion, Toxic Compound Eye Lizard were a few creatures that Leylin saw before in illustrations as they continued to appear before his eyes. There were even some grotesquely shaped creatures.

“The energy density in the air here has even been replicated. It’s even higher than in the outside world, no wonder there are so many troublesome things!”

Feeling the energy particles that filled the air, Leylin gasped slightly.

“Everyone, keep your spirits raised. The dangers in the Golden Desert cannot be compared with the Limestone Wasteland!”

The female Magus, called Lancey, shouted.

Even without her reminder, the other Magi present had already recollected their absent-minded pace from before.

One can loosen their guard occasionally in the Limestone Wasteland, but if they chose to do the same in the Golden Desert, they were foolish and seeking for death! Those magicians who were able to advance into a rank 1 Magus were seldom such people.

“Awooooooo!”

Just then, Lancey’s steed let off a howl. Its huge claws were raised and its sharp claws at tip slashed down with a cold glint of light!

Pat

Suddenly, a black scorpion with the image of an eye appeared in front of where the wolf was. It was patted down by the sharp claws of wolf as it continuously writhed its body and hissed.

Ka-Cha The Seated Lupin Wolf dropped its jaws and opened its gory mouth as it placed the scorpion into its jaws. The razor sharp mandible continued to chew, bringing along the snapping sounds of the scorpion’s bones being crunched.

“Such a life form can be settled by the Seated Lupin Wolf. However, dangerous creatures such as the Kary Vultures must be dealt by us personally!”

Lancey slighted nudged her steed forward and said to the Magi behind her.

“This is...”

Where the Seated Lupin Wolf had attacked earlier, it sent a huge amount of sand flying in the air and Leylin spotted several grains of gold within it.

He reached his hand forward and grasp a handful of gold sand in his hands.

In the middle of the normal grains of sand, several golden grains were mixed in with it. Its weight was also heavier than the others by a large margin.

“Golden sand?”

Leylin looked at the gold which seemed to be alluring and was somewhat speechless.

“Golden Desert, this here is the real Golden Desert!”

“If it was the secular world, it will definitely cause chaos. A pity,

however...”

With a look of contempt, Leylin flung the gold sand back onto the ground.

To magicians, only the magic crystals, the ingredients which could stimulate the spiritual force and the various advanced information was considered to be the real currency!

As for the gold belonging the secular world, apart from its uses as an ingredient, it was no different from regular metals.

Moreover, the Golden Desert was situated inside the Great Canyon Margaret, an area forbidden to regular humans. To traverse it also required the employment of the highly expensive Seated Lupin Wolves.

Thinking of the cost of excavation would already frighten the kings in many dukedoms!

Leylin only felt some pity regarding the golden sand, but he very soon regained his composure.

The A.I. Chip’s detection had been activated by him all along as his eyes surveyed the surroundings. In the Golden Desert, one must always be on alert.

The six giant, icy-blue wolves seemed to be six small boats in the Golden Desert as they continuously plodded on.

After the sky gradually darkened, the temperature in the desert also dropped.

At this moment, the Seated Lupin Wolf gave off warmth; their furs also turned back to black, as if storing the heat from day time.

“Today, I shall stand guard during the night!”

After Leylin had built his tent, an official Magus present among them all, said so.

There was a total of 6 in the group. Leylin, Lancey, the old leader, and the huge bloke and two others who remained silent most of the time. The one who spoke was one of these two.

These two Magi had grey robes on at all times, and seldom spoke. Their personality was also extremely antisocial. Up till now, Leylin managed to exchange two sentences with only one of the two.

“We will count on you!” Lancey did not look too good, her face appeared tired as she went into her tent.

During the day, she had used her spiritual force to scan the surroundings for any activity going on. Now, she urgently needed to rest and meditate to recover her spiritual force.

As Leylin had the A.I. Chip to help with his tasks, his mental

state was still doing fine. Yet he still put on a false impression of being weary.

“Are you not going to rest awhile?” Leylin appeared in front of one of those official Magi and casually spoke to him.

“I need not rest. I have these. Come out, my little babies!”

The Magus on night duty gave a deep laughter as his pair of arms performed a strange gesture.

Bang Bang Bang A layer of Earth element particles continued to emanate from his body.

The surrounding sand rose up by a layer. After which, it was quickly broken, revealing a dozen yellow slates.

These muddy yellow slates each had a human face on it. Some were young, some were old. They even had a pair of slim arms and legs. Just like a gingerbread man.

“Father! We await your commands!” A dozen stone slate people knelt on one knee in front of the Magus on night duty.

“Very well, you all shall guard the night for me. You are in charge of...” The night guard Magus nodded his head and unrestrainedly began giving out orders.

“Sentinel Slates?” Leylin was bewildered.

These creatures were very similar to the Sentinel Slates in the database of the A.I. Chip, yet it seemed like a creature of a higher level.

“It’s a rank 1 Sentinel Slate but they have undergone modifications from me!” The night duty Magus declared proudly.

After becoming an official Magus, magicians will often attempt to modify and improve some rank 1 spells and even the rank 0 spells of acolytes.

Once they were successful, it could absolutely turn into a unique trump card. Or it could be sold in exchange for a large amount of resources.

A pity that these things and finding replacement potions were the same. Unless one was extremely lucky to chance across it, or only after undergoing a vast amount of experiments, would it be possible to see results.

“It’s really quite a remarkable spell!” Several traces of admiration, which was just right, appeared on Leylin’s face, turning the gaze of the spell caster gentler towards him.

“Let’s go! The Sentinel Slates originally have to use of acting as a warning. After my modification, their detection abilities can span a dozen miles...” The Magus on night duty said.

Leylin looked at the Sentinel Slates, which, having received orders, hurriedly ran to the outer area of the camp encirclement, using the sand to conceal their own bodies.

Along with the sand that continuously trickled down, the energy waves of the slate got smaller, finally turning into an untraceable spell. Leylin could not help but approve in silence.

Any Magus would have their own trump card. Once they were disregarded, it would definitely be a painful experience.

Deep in the night, Leylin who was in a light sleep heard an ear-piercing scream.

“Hurry, get up. We have trouble!”

The earlier Magus, who was on guard duty, went into the individual tents and his face showing utter exasperation.

“What happened?” Lancey’s expression was the worst. There were several spots on her body where the robes were not yet arranged, as it revealed her alluring flesh. A pity nobody at the scene bothered to have another look.

Chapter 140: The Golden Giant

“A Golden Giant is in the process of moving towards us!” The Magus on night duty exclaimed hurriedly. “The Sentinel Slate used to alert the others have been completely eaten by it, too!”

“Fuck!”

After hearing these words 'Golden Giant', Leylin quickly heard the startled oaths of nearby Magi.

The Golden Giant was a type of elemental species. Its power was close to that of a fully converted elemental Magus. On top of that, it has its own unique racial talents. Only a rank 2 Magus had the capabilities to thoroughly kill or banish it.

“Wasn't it said that the Golden Giants from the Golden Desert are extinct? Furthermore, it appeared conveniently in our way. “

The old leader clenched his jaws in a state of madness. His eyes emitted a green radiance.

“Can we avoid it for the time being?”

Lancey suggested. “The Golden Desert is so huge, he might not be able to find us!”

“I am afraid not!” Leylin was the first to interject. “The Golden Giants have a natural instinct to chase species with high energy levels. The energy propagating from our bodies acts like a lamp in the darkness for the giant’s eyes. The more we move, the more likely the Golden Giant will assault us!”

“If that is the case what should we do?” A look of despair appeared on Lancey’s face. “Unless we have a rank 2 Magus within our party, we will all fail to escape the assault of the Golden Giant....”

There is a large gulf of difference in power level between the official Magi of different rankings

Leylin and his party of six were only slightly stronger than a rank 1 Magus. They would even have difficulties going head on with a semi converted elemental Magus. They had no chance of surviving an encounter with a fully converted elemental Golden Giant.

Semi elemental conversions refer to Magi whose elemental essence conversion has reached a level of 50% and above. At this stage, their increase in magical power due to the elemental essence conversion starts to become very obvious. When faced with budding Warlocks, they held a great advantage.

While Leylin was still an acolyte, he had an encounter with a semi converted storm elemental sprite while on the dirigible. If not for the fact that there was a large gathering of Magi from the different academies, the only outcome would have been death.

In the current predicament, Leylin had to face something far more powerful and dangerous than the semi converted storm elemental sprite.

“Perhaps, we should scatter and escape in different directions...”

The large bloke hesitated for a while before suggesting.

Upon hearing the suggestion, the Magi present entered a state of silence and eyes started flickering nonstop.

“Are you people mad?”

The old geezer interrupted the large bloke in a fit of anger. “If we fled in different directions, can you guarantee that you individuals are lucky enough to escape the assault of the Golden Giant? Furthermore, what will you do after you reach the Kary Vultures’ territory?”

The two sharp questions abruptly brought about a deeper silence.

After fleeing in different directions, they could once again head towards the intended destination. If they were lucky, there was even a chance of heading back to Broken Axe Pub.

However, this was only the last resort. The Magi will not accept their foul fate just like that.

“Quick! Another three of my babies are dead!” The night shift Magus said with a heavier breath than before.

“Maybe we could use the Sentinel Slate along with a rune which dissipates energy continuously to distract the Golden Giant. While it is distracted, we could do our best to restrain the energy emitted from our bodies and sneak away... If it fails, we could do as mentioned earlier and scatter in different directions...”

In the midst of silence. Leylin suddenly spoke up.

“Although this plan is unreliable, we obviously have no better options...”

The old geezer let out a sign of deep resignation and pointed at Leylin. “We will do as he says! I happen to have the material for a few Sentinel Slates...”

Following which, he handed out vials filled with grey powders to the night shift Magus.

Having looked at the materials handed out by the old geezer, the night shift Magus displayed a look of unwillingness. However, he still received the materials from the old geezer. “Alright, let’s try it! But I cannot guarantee that it will work!”

Soon after the chants from the nightshift Magus, a few pieces of Sentinel Slates that resembled the destroyed one rose up from the sands.

At this moment, the people in the camp could clearly see a golden glow appearing in the eastern direction.

This glow was like the sun dissipating the darkness and brought about a glimmer of warmth.

In front of the solar disk was the colossal shadow of a giant.

The giant's body radiated a golden light. It was armoured very simply. A leather armour on this upper body with an iron hoop in the middle that joined the two shoulder pads.

On the shoulders rested the head of the giant with rigid face lines that looked like it was caused by the scrapes and slashes of weapons. The tangerine hair on top of its head looked like it was burning mightily.

[Beep! High energy species life form spotted, determined to be a Golden Giant, recommended to leave immediately!]

At the same instant, the A.I. chip displayed out of a red warning screen.

“Quick! Quick!” The old geezer's voice was filled with urgency.

“I know a few energy concentration runes, hopefully, it is of use!” The other usually quiet Magus stood up and said. Following

which he applied what looked like a mixture of circular and triangular runes on the Sentinel Slate.

After the rune was inscribed, it radiated brightly and suddenly a power energy surged out from the Sentinel Slate. This enormous energy fluctuated chaotically causing the Golden Giant to let out a roar and accelerate towards it.

“Nice! It grabbed the Golden Giant’s attention!” Lancey exclaimed happily.

“Let’s add this on top!” Leylin uncorked a red test tube and poured its content on the inscribed Sentinel Slate.

After the liquid from the red test tube assimilated fully into the Sentinel Slate, the Sentinels let out angry snarls and transformed to be bigger and with stronger limbs.

“Hopefully, this will help them hold out longer!”

Leylin tossed away the empty test tube. The energy propagating out of his body was reduced from that of an official Magus to a normal person.

This was done using the Transfiguration Spell. It diluted the level of energy propagating from his body.

After which, he went over to his Seated Lupin Wolf, placed a cover over the wolf’s mouth and gave it a pat on its head.

The Seated Lupin Wolf seemed to be aware of the presence of the incoming Golden Giant. It got low to the floor with limbs trembling and waited for Leylin's command.

The other Magus followed Leylin's action.

They also used the protection of the environment to conceal their whole body.

Finally, the Golden Giant was nearer to the camp. It was less than only 500 metres away!

At this sort of distance, Leylin was able to see clearly every single hair on the giant.

“It's up to you now, babies, attack!”

“Attack! For our father!”

The burly and buffed up Sentinel Slates roared. Some of them rushed head on towards the Golden Giant while the others split up and ran in different directions.

Whether it was the brave Sentinels Slates who charged heads on towards the Golden Giant or the others who ran in different directions, their bodies carried a large source of energy which pulsated out of them. The energy was almost like that of a rank 1

Magus.

“kjfl” The Golden Giant let out an unknown type of shout as if swearing.

It stretched out its large palms in a posture like it was hiding the sky and covering the earth. It pushed against the ground and dredged up the earth.

A few of the Sentinels were picked up by the Golden Giant

“For glory! For protection!”

The Sentinel Slates roared as their little fists rained down upon the giant’s large arm.

“Creak Crunch!” The large Golden Giant placed the captured Sentinels directly into the mouth. It sounded as if he was chewing through biscuits.

After ingesting the Sentinel Slates, the Golden Giant let out a loud roar and chased after the fleeing Sentinel Slates with large strides.

“Now!”

The old geezer’s voice was soft. The six men covertly pulled the Seated Lupin Wolf and left the camp area.

Everyone was doing their utmost to contain the energy pulsating from their bodies. There was even a cover on the Seated Lupin Wolf's body. Like moles, they stealthily left the area

The Golden Giant shouted at the fleeing Sentinel Slates and chased after them. It never gave the camp a second look.

“Run!”

Someone exclaimed softly after the golden glow disappeared. Without hesitation, everyone ran at the speed of light.

.....

Crash!

The wolf pack ran past, kicking up a dust of sand and stones. The dust glittered a faint glow of gold.

Leylin and the party had been on the run without a break ever since he was disturbed from his rest state at the camp. This, coupled with the Golden Giant incident had caused Leylin to have an unhealthy complexion.

From the pitch black darkness of the night to a fully risen sun, almost half a day had passed while on the run.

However, the thought of the Golden Giant spurred the party on and nobody grumbled about the lack of rest.

“We were lucky the Golden Giant does not seem to have high intelligence! It only knows how to mindlessly chase after high energy life forms. If not, the stealth attempt yesterday would have failed. It was a really suspenseful situation...”

Leylin felt a lingering fear in his heart.

Although he has advanced his magical powers and is considered to be someone of considerable power in the world of Magus, the Golden Giant was something that was entirely out of his league.

“However, the Golden Giant is an elemental species. It does not have a bloodline. If not, I would rather like to have a few drops of the Golden Giant’s blood for my experiments...”

Leylin’s eyes betrayed a glimpse of regret.

There were countless types of mythical species in the Magus world. The Golden Giant belonged to the elemental species. Its whole body is made up of various type of elements and minerals. There is not even a drip of blood in it, naturally there will be no blood line.

In ancient times, the paths to becoming a Magus were many. The Warlocks chose the path of the bloodline.

And obviously, the Golden Giant chose a different path.

There are different paths to reach the pinnacle. Leylin's plan was to follow the path of the Warlock.

“Shall we rest? If we do not meditate and recuperate our spiritual force...” Lancey's voice was heard from the front of the party. She travelled together with the old geezer on the Seated Lupin Wolf.

All Magi make use of the both their spiritual force and magic power to perform miraculous magic. Due to the Golden Giant incident yesterday and the constant travelling, the six Magi were unable to meditate to recuperate their spiritual energy. Looks of exhaustion were spread across their faces.

“No need for that, we are yet to be out of the danger zone, the Golden Giant might catch up to us anytime soon...”

The wind carried the old geezers reply though the party.

After hearing the old geezers reply, the party sank into a solemn silence and carried on with their hasty escape.

The Magi feared the Golden Giant more than any other dangers in the Golden Desert.

Chapter 141: Kary Vultures

Whoosh Whoosh!

A gale carried up the sand, bringing about a glittering gold color.

On the endless Golden Desert filled with death and danger, a pack of six large wolves padded across the soft sands at a relentless speed.

Upon the backs of the wolves, there sat a couple human silhouettes.

“We are here! Before us is the Golden Oasis!” The old geezer studied the map and exclaimed brightly.

“Are we here at last?” the rider of a Seated Lupin Wolf raised his head slightly and said. With his astonishingly powerful eyesight, he looked into the distance and saw a blanket of green.

Ever since their encounter with the Golden Giant, Leylin, and his party had been on edge, and had been easily startled by the slightest of things. They had only just started to relax after having been on the run for more than ten days. As a result, they also reached their destination at a faster time than they had originally planned.

This was the Golden Oasis, the only large water source in the

Golden Desert.

Also, it was the only traversable path through the Grand Canyon Margaret. The other paths were wrought with dangers that far surpassed the capabilities of a rank 1 Magus.

Leylin spotted a few large bird-like creatures in the far distance that were taking off and landing at the oasis.

They were the Kary Vultures, the main culprits that occupied the land.

The six Magi stopped and stationed their Seated Lupin Wolves at a sand dune not far from the Golden Oasis.

The Seated Lupin Wolves were great against some of the lower level life forms in the Golden Oasis. However, against the adult Kary Vultures, which were comparable to a rank 3 Acolyte, they had no chance of surviving once trapped in their kill zone.

The Seated Lupin Wolves were still needed for the journey ahead. Furthermore, the wolves were borrowed. If the Wolves perished, a huge sum of magic crystals would be needed to compensate the handlers who were supposed to take back the wolves on the other side of the Grand Canyon.

“We can’t press on anymore! The Kary Vultures are capable of flight. We will surely be spotted by them from the air!”

The old geezer surveyed the surroundings, “We need to conceal the position at which the Seated Lupin Wolves are situated as well!”

“I might be able to help in this aspect!” Leylin let out a faint smile and waved his two hands at the shadow of the sand dune.

Under Leylin’s hand, the black shadow warped and swiveled. As if a giant behemoth hiding in the shadows, it opened its maw and swallowed the entire sand dune.

“Darkness is the natural friend of concealment.” In the shadow of the darkness, the large wolves vanished.

“Good job!” Lancey praised Leylin.

In her eyes, although Leylin was still just a budding Magus, she admired his nimble mind and weak, but practical spells.

However, this was just a false front by Leylin.

Upon hearing Lancey’s compliment, the big bloke incessantly let out a cold snort, “If it were up to me to do it....”

“Ok, ok! We are a party after all, why the need for that?”

The old geezer interrupted the big bloke, “Our enemies at the moment are the Kary Vulture flock and their King!”

“Lancey, you shall explain the situation to the party!”

Lancey stepped to the middle of the party and produced a blue gem from a small crevice in her chest region.

“This magic artifact is modelled to act as a spying eye, and can examine images within a ten kilometre radius!”

Lancey finished her explanation and placed the gem in her hands. She dripped a few drops of water from her water pouch onto it and chanted a few incantations.

A beam of light blue light was emitted from the gem. The light warped and stretched until it looked like a mirror's surface.

On the mirror like surface, a beautiful lake could be seen. Green shrubbery and coconut trees grew around it. Occasionally, large red birds could be seen ascending and descending from the forest.

The vision on the mirror surface continued to pan in. Leylin could see the true appearance of the Kary Vultures.

The Kary Vulture's wingspan spanned 5 metres and was covered in scarlet feathers. Its talons looked cold and sharp. The pink bald patches on its head were a disgusting sight. A tumor-like muscle bulged on its curved and completely bald head.

There were more than a hundred of these Kary Vultures in the oasis. If they were all fully grown and under the leadership of an official Magus-like Kary Vulture King, the band of Magi stood no chance.

“More than a hundred? This amount is too much! Can we see the Kary Vulture King?”

The old geezer hastily questioned.

“I will try my best!” Lancey was uncertain but continued to pan the mirror in the direction of the flock of Kary Vultures.

Over yonder, there stood a gigantic tree with a peculiar hollow that looked like a den. Hidden in it was an incomparably massive Kary Vulture.

While Lancey was trying to zoom in the mirror to get a closer look, the massive Kary Vulture seemed to notice her presence and let out an angry screech.

“Ga Ga!”

It sounded like a crow, but somehow unexplainably different. Suddenly, the surrounding Kary Vultures in the flock were agitated and stirred up.

Following the angry cry, a terrifying sonic wave swept towards all four directions.

“No way! It discovered my presence!” Lancey’s complexion changed for the worse.

Pa! The mirror shattered into pieces like a broken crystal. It turned into a blue glow and dropped onto the floor.

“Ga Ga!” The Kary Vulture King’s screech echoed from the distance. The Kary Vultures shook their large red wings, and like trained soldiers split up into sections. They spread out like carpet that covered the sky and searched the surroundings, not missing a single area.

“Sorry!” Lancey apologised with a look of embarrassment on her face.

“No problem! At least we saw the situation clearly, didn’t we?” The night shift Magus replied quickly.

“That’s right! That’s right!?” The old geezer replied with a brief flash of shame across his face. It was him that allowed Lancey to search for the Kary Vulture King.

“Ga Ga!” The large Kary Vultures patrolled the sky for a long period of time, but it was to no avail. At last, they violently attacked some of the land creatures in the area. The Kary Vultures swooped up what looked appeared to be large lizards, and flew back into the oasis.

For Leylin and the official Magi, it was an easy task to hide from the pursuit of the Kary Vultures.

“Ok! Let’s discuss how we should deal with that goddamn flock of bastard birds.

Below the ground, in a temporary hut crafted using magic, the six Magi regrouped.

“A hundred Kary Vultures with power levels similar to level 2 or level 3 acolytes, plus a Vulture King whose power is far beyond what we expected!”

The old geezer looked at the other Magi.

“What else is there to do? Let’s follow the earlier plan and observe their hunting paths and patterns. We will then kill off the small hunting packs before mounting an assault into the oasis!” The big bloke was the not even the least bit concerned as he waved them off with his hands.

This was the plan that was discussed earlier — simple and practical.

However, after the incident with the Golden Giant, the people in the party started to have a pressing sense of urgency and were unwilling to waste time on such plans.

Furthermore, the Golden Desert was the Golden Giant’s habitat,

and they did not wish to bump into it again.

“Alright! However, we have to increase the frequency of our attacks, and get through here quickly!”

Having observed Leylin and the rest of the party approving this plan, the old geezer grudgingly agreed to it...

A black scorpion-like creature guided by the darkness stealthily crawled along the desert floor. Its hooked tail swung from side to side as it moved along. There was an unusual bright red colouring on it, which was obviously an indication of it being poisonous.

Shuck!

All of a sudden, a muddy yellow tongue lashed across at speed unseen by the naked eye and pulled the scorpion into a sand dune.

Boom! The sand dune split open, revealing a muddy yellow lizard. The lizard was covered by bits and pieces of fish scales and had a large beautiful comb growing on its head.

Zi Zi! The lizard opened his mouth, and with one gulp and a movement of its neck muscles, the scorpion was eaten.

After ingesting its food, the lizard swayed its stocky body and used its front limbs to rapidly dig into the sand and bury itself in it.

“Ga Ga!”

Almost immediately after the lizard buried itself, an unpleasant vulture screeching echoed in the night sky.

Whoosh! Following the vulture’s cry, a violent gust of wind swept by.

The large Kary Vulture swooped from midair, and using its black talons, it knocked the sand dune apart and clenched its claws.

Kacha! The sharp black talons directly hooked into the flesh of the lizard, and the lizard let out a howl of pain violently flipping its stocky body.

“GaGa!” The Kary Vulture let out a screech of delight and pecked at the lizard with its hooked beak.

Pu! The mud yellow lizard’s skull had been split. Its brain matter and blood left a mess on the sands.

The Kary Vulture grabbed onto its prey tightly and began to fly back to its den.

Although normal vultures liked rotting meat, the Kary Vultures obviously preferred to ingest fresh and living mammals.

The mud yellow lizard was two metres long, but in comparison to

the Kary Vulture's stature, the bird looked like it was grabbing a small fish.

“Latent Fireball!”

Somewhere from within the darkness, several black colored fireballs suddenly appeared and struck the Kary Vulture that was carrying its prey.

In a flash, the black fireballs were all over the Kary Vultures body.

Bang! Without a sound, the Kary Vulture, along with its dead prey, were reduced to ashes.

The following fireballs did not decrease in intensity. They shot right up into the sky and killed the remaining Kary Vultures.

Following his attack, the ground vibrated and the sand parted, revealing Leylin's face.

“A.I. Chip! Present the degree of attack!”

For these few days, he had been on watch in the area to hunt down those Kary Vultures that had swooped down looking for food.

Just now, Leylin had been experimenting with the rank one spell

that the A.I. Chip came up with.

Long before, when he was a rank 3 acolyte, Leylin had tasked the A.I. Chip with simulating a rank 1 defensive spell model.

However, after receiving the teachings of the great Magus Serholm and advancing to a Warlock, this task had been delayed.

Entering the Golden Desert left him feeling that his attack techniques were lacking. As someone who lacked a conventional attack technique, Leylin decided to place the task back on the agenda.

Chapter 142: Latent Fireball

What Leylin had wanted to simulate earlier was a defensive spell.

However, it was meant to be used by magicians who wanted to have a breakthrough with the Grine Water, so naturally, Leylin, having turned into a Warlock, did not need it anymore.

As if struck by inspiration, Leylin added in a few rank 1 spell models from the Book of Giant Serpent and let the A.I. Chip make its modifications and optimizations, devising a rank 1 spell that was suitable for his elemental affinity.

After advancing into a Warlock, Leylin's spiritual force had significantly increased. Even the A.I. Chip, which was bound to his soul, seemed to have obtained many benefits. Just two days ago, it was finally able to simulate a rank 1 spell model.

[Beep! Data collected, scanning in progress...]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

[Latent Fireball! Classification: Rank 1 spell: Darkness and Fire. Degree of attack: 30.3. Added elemental bonus: 0.3 degrees]

Right now, Leylin's elemental essence conversion was 1%. Hence, he obtained a 1% increase in the might of his darkness element spell.

Although it seemed like the increase was insignificant, once the elemental essence conversion reached 50% and above, every Darkness element spell would be stronger than regular Magi by more than half!

“Not bad! This might is enough to deal with most Magi’s innate defensive force fields!”

Leylin continued to analyse the data, his face revealing a satisfied expression.

It wasn’t that the strength of Magi’s defensive force fields were always the same. However, normally, Magi who had just advanced only had a defensive force field with the capability of 20 degrees. However, with the progress of their spiritual force, coupled with them seeking for some precious resources to increase the might of their magic spells, their defensive force fields would often become strengthened.

The range varied for each individual, which was truer for magicians who cultivated in high-grade meditation techniques.

As for Leylin, who was a Warlock, as well as having unearthed his bloodline, the defense might of the Scales of Kemoyin would also continue to become stronger.

A magic spell of 30 over degrees was enough to break most regular rank 1 Magi’s defensive force fields.

That was to say, apart from his own trump card of his defensive force field, Leylin had another powerful method to deal with other Magi in the future.

However, it could only be that way.

If possible, Leylin would, of course, want the A.I. Chip to custom make a mighty rank 1 spell that could cover speed, strength, defense, detection, and all other various aspects.

However, it was a pity, as the A.I. Chip was only able to simulate the Latent Fireball spell due to Leylin having amassed large amounts of information. Also, it was due to the contributions of Darkness and Fire spells from the Book of Giant Serpent that made Leylin able to create the Latent Fireball after a long period time.

The few rank 1 spells in the Book of Giant Serpent were from the great Magus Serholm, who was also a Warlock with the Kemoyin bloodline. His elemental affinity was naturally towards the Darkness and Fire aspect, so the spells he collected were of these two elements, which allowed Leylin to benefit greatly from it.

As for these kinds of conditions, they would never be met again in the near future.

Hence, in this span of time, unless Leylin discovered a new type of Darkness and Fire element spell model, the A.I. Chip would not be able to simulate any new spells.

As he thought about the Book of Giant Serpent, Leylin involuntarily touched his chest, where the corner of a hardened black notebook was exposed.

This was the Book of Giant Serpent, which had been obtained from the Dylan Gardens, and kept securely by Leylin at all times. It was made of a special kind of material where the pages of the book carried a strange sensation to the touch. As if made of some creature's hide, every page could store large amounts of information.

Inside the book, not only were there a dozen rank 1 spell models, there were also three rank 2 spell models, together with the great Magus Serholm's travelling experiences and lab experiments. The information inside was aplenty, and it was Leylin's most valuable item that he'd gotten apart from the high-grade meditation technique.

Weng Weng!

At this moment, a pocket-sized diary that was hanging like a keychain trembled.

Leylin opened the diary and flipped to the page that was shaking.

This pocket-sized diary was only the size of a child's palm. On the faint yellow page, a secret imprint that had the shape of 3 rocks stacked together was letting off a slight glow and trembling.

Leylin reached out his finger and lightly dabbed on the secret imprint.

“Haha! Leylin, you have killed a lot of them haven’t you? The Vulture King where I am at has already dispatched all of the Kary Vultures, so be careful when you conceal yourself!”

The voice of the huge bloke sounded from the secret imprint.

This pocket-sized diary was what official Magi used to collect the secret imprints of their friends, professors, colleagues and other people that they wanted to keep in contact with.

Some Magi, however, preferred to have the secret imprints inscribed on their bodies. One example was the huge bloke. Leylin saw that one of the huge bloke’s arms was fully covered with the secret imprints.

Those densely packed imprints left Leylin feeling rather dizzy.

Although it was rather troublesome, he preferred to use the diary to collect the secret imprints.

“Alright, I got it!” Leylin said to the secret imprint.

Afterwards, he closed the diary and hurriedly left the area.

Very soon, Leylin saw the dark figures on the far horizon.

They were the shadows of the Vulture King, which, having been enraged, brought the entire flock with it.

However, compared to a few days ago, when they could cover the sky, the flock was now rather thinly spread out. Their numbers had dwindled from over a hundred to less than half, at around forty or fifty. This was the fruit of Leylin and the others' labours from over the last few days.

Even from this distance, Leylin could sense the violent energy waves radiating from this furious Vulture King.

“Ga Ga!”

With the Vulture King in the centre, the tremendous energy waves continued to radiate into the surroundings. This kingly figure was venting its frustration and rage at the continuous loss of its subordinates!

[From the energy waves radiated, target's Vitality is over 20, Strength estimated to be 17-19. Concrete data is unknown!]

Creatures like this, who had reached the stage of an official Magus, often had a layer of defensive force field around them. Leylin's A.I. Chip still could not penetrate through and obtain any concrete stats. It could only analyse the strength that the target displayed, and give a rough estimate.

However, these stats alone made Leylin's face change.

Creatures like these often possessed immense strength and vitality and even had innate spells which were terribly difficult to deal with.

Looking at the Vulture King snarling above a few piles of ashes, the other Kary Vultures in the surroundings also cawed in anguish. Leylin stared intently at the Vulture King before leaving the area.

Deep in the night, in an underground room that was temporarily carved.

"Today we have killed another 9 Kary Vultures, well done!" The old geezer smiled.

"Right now, those damned trashy birds only have a strength of 50 odd!" The huge bloke was also excited.

The materials from a Vulture King, which rivalled the existence of a rank 1 Magus, were extremely precious. Moreover, they could also reap the rewards from both sides that governed the Great Canyon Margaret.

"However, the Kary Vultures that are still alive now very seldom hunt for their prey in the areas that we have set up. There are also signs of them relocating soon..."

“We have to hurry and find a way. If not, we could lose this bonus bounty reward...”

Lancey, who was standing on the side, poured cold water on their conversation.

The families governing both sides of the Great Canyon Margaret did mention that they could pass through the Golden Oasis when the vulture flock had relocated. However, against this Vulture King that had its forces greatly reduced, and a bountiful reward assigned to it, Lancey and the others naturally did not want to let the Vulture King go.

“Perhaps we could...”

After some silence, the old geezer suggested an idea.

A fireball-like sun was hanging up high in the sky, and heat waves rising from the desert distorted the view.

Inside a stone forest that was temporarily created by spells, Leylin and the other five were huddled up.

“How is it? Can that old geezer do it?” The huge bloke spoke offhandedly as usual.

“You have to believe that old man. He is an official Magus, after all!” Lancey’s brows furrowed, “Has the ambush been set up?”

With a flash of a yellow light, Leylin came out from a side of the stone forest with the yellow light still glittering around him, “The side that I am managing has been completed!”

“It’s all set up now!” From the other side, the night shift Magus and the other quiet one spoke.

“Great! As long as that old geezer is able to lure the Vulture King here, I will rip that damned bird apart!” The huge bloke clenched his fist, his knuckles crackling.

Looking on, he was a magician that specialised in physical training and the reinforcement of his body, possessing strong muscles and strength.

“For the materials of the Vulture King, even the old geezer is spending a lot of effort!”

Leylin figured that if not for some precious ingredient the Vulture King had, the old geezer would not be this zealous and even offer to be a bait to lure it over.

“They’re coming!”

The A.I. Chip’s detection allowed Leylin to discover the other party first. Very soon, on the horizon, a thinly spread layer of black figures appeared.

There was also a human figure, with a green hurricane engulfing his body as he wildly rushed over.

“Everyone, return to your individual posts, and pay heed to the orders! Quick!” Lancey shouted nervously.

In a flash, the Magi who were present disappeared.

Closer, even closer!

The old geezer dashed extremely fast. From his concealed area, Leylin could even distinctly see that on the sides of his wrinkled face, blood continuously flowed out from both of his ears.

Whoosh!

The old geezer rapidly entered the stone forest, at the same time transmitting his voice. “Be careful of the Vulture King’s sarcoma. It is able to emit a sound attack. I took a hit from it earlier!”

After seeing the stone forest, the Vulture King hesitated.

However, thinking about the prey it was chasing, whose energy waves were not much different from its own, and the fact that it had even killed its children...

“Ga Ga!” The Vulture King’s eyes turned bloodshot as it led the flock into the territory of the stone forest.

Chapter 143: Andre Town

“The target has reached the kill zone. Begin!”

The hasty transmission passed through the secret imprint and simultaneously sounded out in five different locations.

Upon hearing the transmission, Leylin’s hand radiated a scarlet red glow, and he proceeded to press his hands against the obelisk in front of him.

Bang!

A circular wave of tremendous magical power erupted violently. The colorful spell glowed, and trapped the Kary Vultures within it like a cage.

“Ga Ga!” The Kary Vultures screeched furiously while the tumour-like muscles on their bald heads grew in size and glowed a bright red, finally culminating in a violent explosion.

Ting!

The resulting ear-piercing sound wave continued to reverberate within the cage. The remaining Kary Vultures continued to vibrate their tumour like muscles, amplifying the sound wave in the process.

“This kind of attack...”Leylin widened his eyes, the sound waves pounded on his skull like a hammer. He started to fall into a state of dizziness.

Under the agitation of the sound waves, the ring of light on top of the cage started to flicker and fade.

“The attack coming from such a lowly beast is stronger than expected. Furthermore, it can be amplified by the rest of the flock. If the Kary Vultures from before were still present, they would have surely broken free from the cage!”

“Plan A is not working, time for plan B!”

Lancey’s exasperated voice emitted from the secret imprint.

“Copy!”

Leylin whispered to the secret imprint and transfigured a magic spell

[Estimated countdown to entrapment detonation: 10 seconds!]
The A.I. Chip stated.

“Let’s go!” Leylin took a last look at the Kary Vultures that were still struggling in the cage and fled the scene.

Bang!

10 seconds later, at the stone forest, a violent explosion occurred.

The sound of the explosion filled the area, and black smoke shot up into the horizon.

In the blaze, colorful and fine potion powders occasionally dispersed.

To increase the power of the spell, Leylin had added a ton of explosive and conflagratory potions.

“Haha! Beasts are still just beasts!”

Looking at the Kary Vultures that struggled in the fiery blaze, the big bloke, who was also present, laughed out loud, condescendingly.

Two streams of blood flowed down from the big bloke's ears. Evidently, the Kary Vultures' attack had done considerable damage to him.

“This Kary Vulture King has realized its racial talents. The tumour like muscle on its head can be used to emit sound wave attacks, and it can be amplified by the flock. The level of danger will have been increased by at least two levels. When I get back, I must demand more money from those despicable merchants.”

The old geezer cursed.

“Talks about the price increase can be discussed later. Where is the big fellow?” Leylin pointed at the heart of the explosion.

Slowly, the blaze started to die down. From the original stone, forest emerged a large, soot covered, bird-like figure.

Half of the scarlet feathers on this Kary Vulture were burned off as a result of the explosion, and the other half of them were covered in black soot. There was also a large blood stain on its bald head. It was a funny sight, but Leylin and the rest of the party did not dare to let their guard down.

“The explosion just now had an estimated power of 30 degrees or higher. How unexpected...” Lancey hung her jaw open in shock.

“After all, it is not a weak bodied Magus but a high-level species with a powerful body!” Leylin said quickly, “Go forward and surround it! It is about to escape!”

“Damn it!” The old geezer reluctantly looked at the Kary Vulture King, which was already in flight, and cursed. He rapidly chanted an incantation.

Following his chant, a faint azure breeze converged, and formed two large azure wings on his back.

“I executed both the baiting and the intercepting, so I must get a

larger share of the loot!”

The old geezer blustered. He vibrated the wings on his back and floated into the air.

Whoosh! The old geezer traveled at a very quick pace. He was as nimble in the air as he was on the ground. From the looks of it, he had much practice in air combat.

“Ga Ga!” The Kary Vulture King angrily cried out. Sadly, a large portion of its wings were damaged by the explosion, and it was no match for the old geezer in the air.

After hovering and swooping for a while, the old geezer grabbed an opportunity. With a green ray, he pierced one of the Kary Vulture King’s wings.

Peng!

With one wing pierced, the Kary Vulture King lost its balance and crashed down into the ground. A large cloud of sand floated around the downed Vulture.

“Advance!”

Leylin and the rest of the party immediately rushed up and surrounded the Kary Vulture King.

Blood flowed out from the multiple wounds on the Kary Vulture King. Looking at the Magi who surrounded it and the human figure floating in the sky above him, its eyes betrayed a sign of hopelessness.

“Haha! Goddamn beast, I shall tear you apart!”

The big bloke laughed out coldly. A green-greyish stone skin appeared on his body as he leapt at the injured Kary Vulture King.

“Ga Ga!”

The Kary Vulture King sounded an abnormally high-pitched shriek and shook its wings.

What remained of its unharmed wing slashed across like a knife, with feathers erect like steel blades. The wing clashed with the big bloke’s fist.

Bang! A dull explosion sounded out in midair and shook the ground below.

The big bloke quickly retreated, his greyish stone skin letting out a crackling sound like the popping noises of popcorn.

The Kary Vulture King let out another screech, and its body turned red. It looked like the Kary Vulture King was pumping all of its blood into its head. The originally shattered tumour on its head begun to rise and swell again.

“Careful, he is about to let loose a sound wave attack!” Leylin rapidly shouted out. He grabbed the tumour with his palms. “Restrict!”

Sssii!

The countless black tentacle-like objects reached out from the Kary Vulture King’s shadow and bound it tightly. Extra effort was placed in tying up the Kary Vulture King’s skull region.

“All together!”

Leylin yelled wildly. Together with the other two silent Magi, he attacked the Kary Vulture King.

Various intensely fluctuating magical spells landed on the Kary Vulture King’s body.

The spells tore apart the Kary Vulture King’s chest, causing large amounts of blood to spurt out of it.

Kacha!

The old geezer, who had been floating in midair, let out an emerald air-blade attack, which chopped off the bound tumour.

The Kary Vulture King screeched a couple of times as the light in

its eyes started to extinguish, and it thudded onto the floor.

Pa!The old geezer landed on the ground, and his magical green wings disappeared.

The six Magi surrounded the Kary Vulture King's corpse. They all had complex looks on their faces.

“What a chore this has been! If not for the additional remuneration from the pub, this would have been a complete loss!”

The lack of serious injuries on the party was a poor reflection of the difficulty level of killing off the Kary Vulture King. They had to spend a lot of time to prepare the traps and come up with the various materials needed for the potions. On top of that, the fact that they needed 6 Magi to complete the task proved how big of a challenge it was.

The materials that were scavenged from the Kary Vulture King's corpse were barely enough to cover the expenses of the effort taken by the party.

If anyone was dead or seriously injured from the incident, this would have been counted as a big loss.

Magi were a rational bunch. They could calmly perform cost-benefit analysis under different circumstances. If the cost was greater than the benefits, they would avoid doing the job.

This time, if not for the fact that the Kary Vulture King was obstructing the way towards their destination, the party would have left such a high-level creature alone.

“No matter what, the fact that our party has sustained no serious injuries is good news!”

The old geezer smiled widely and said, “Now let’s discuss how to distribute the plunder from our efforts...”

Afterwards, true to Leylin’s expectations, the old geezer claimed the majority of the feathers and the pair of large wings with the argument that he had put in the most work. From the looks of his happy face, he must have needed it urgently for an experiment or for crafting.

The rest of the party followed suit and claimed what they felt was fair for the amount of work they had done.

Leylin took only a bit of the blood and flesh from the tumour and nothing else.

As a Warlock, he was extremely interested in the bloodline of high-level creatures. Although the benefits of the Kary Vultures’ bloodline were not documented, Leylin wanted to experiment to see if he could extract anything from it.

At night, in the Golden Oasis, the 6 Magi cleaned up the remains

of the Kary Vulture King and refilled up their water supplies in the nearby water source. The Seated Lupin Wolves, which had been hidden for a long time, happily cleaned themselves in the lake.

In a glowing tent nearby, Leylin looked at the surface of the tumour, which he had retrieved with a glint of excitement in his eyes.

“A.I. Chip, record data, assist in the experiment!”

Leylin silently chanted a sentence, and immediately pulled on a pair of white rubber gloves. He held out his thumb and pressed on the tumour.

The blood on the tumour flesh has dried completely by now. There were bloodstains on it and it was shriveled.

“It is very light, there seem to be meridians and air sacs...”

Leylin’s eyes glowed blue. Using his other hand, he used a scalpel to break the surface of the tumour.

Inside the flesh, there was an oddly small amount of muscle and blood vessels, and it was comprised mainly of small air sacs.

Many of the air sacs were layered over each other, forming what looked like a lattice shape that resembled a beehive.

“This kind of composition...”

Leylin muttered to himself, “A.I. Chip, record the image!”

.....

After the experiment was finished, Leylin cleaned up his makeshift laboratory, picked up a goose feather quill, and wrote in his goatskin notebook: Sound vessel composition and sound wave attack...

The path after the Golden Oasis was much less dangerous. They did not have any further encounters with powerful, high-level life forms such as the Golden Giant.

.....

Andre Town was a small town located on the other side of the Grand Canyon Magret.

The Kary Vultures had caused the town to become empty and desolate. However, upon exiting the Grand Canyon, they saw a few people.

“May I know if you people are master Lancey and company?”

There was already someone standing by the roadside. He was clad in the pub’s working attire. Upon sighting Leylin and his

party, he bowed respectfully. "The incident with the Kary Vultures was already relayed to us by a secret imprint. Please follow me back to the pub to collect your rewards..."

"Ok!" Lancey and the old geezer stepped out among the group and gave their agreement.

After reaching the pub the attendants unhitched their luggage, and with a whistle, the Seated Lupin Wolves hurried into their feeding area at the rear of the pub.

Chapter 144: The Chase

“It’s only renting for a few months, but it costs five hundred magic crystals. Your boss sure knows how to make money!”

The big bloke complained.

“In fact, we generally charge one thousand magic crystals per rental of the Seated Lupin Wolf. We only charged the minimal maintenance costs this time, as you Sirs took on the task...”

The smiling waiter explained.

As the old geezer arrived, he immediately threw the Vulture King’s skull onto the counter.

“Mission accomplished! Have a look!”

From behind the counter, a white-bearded, bespectacled old man in a bartender’s uniform came out. However, from the energy waves exuding from him, he also seemed to be an official Magus.

The white-bearded old man carefully examined the Vulture King’s skull for a long while, only then did he put it away.

“It is indeed the Vulture King’s head. According to the agreement, each one of you will be able to get....”

Mr. White Beard was nimble. He immediately took out bags filled with magic crystals and magic materials and gave it to everyone. It seemed like he had prepared this beforehand.

“In actuality, I belong to the great Dorian family...”

After completing the delivery, the old geezer put on a kind smile and extended an olive branch to Leylin and the rest.

These kinds of big families would recruit foreign magicians from time to time to further strengthen their family.

Moreover, Leylin and the rest had decent strength, and since they had come from the eastern part of the Grand Canyon, they were not likely to be spies sent by their enemies.

As long as they didn't have a massive headache that they brought with them, it was likely that the local large magisteriums would be most willing to offer shelter for such talents.

Leylin noticed that the big bloke's face obviously displayed his intention to agree. The two magicians who were together, however, seemed indecisive. As for Lancey and the old geezer, they did not hesitate to reject the offer.

Leylin himself did not consider this option.

When magicians joined other big families, it was because they wanted to obtain higher level meditation techniques, magic resources and the like. Leylin already had meditation techniques, and as for magic resources, he could just use medicine to trade for them. Besides, compared to such closed families, Leylin was more willing to join an educational institute or an organisation. Hence, the olive branch the families threw to them, had a lesser appeal to Leylin.

“Come! In any case, we’ve operated as comrades! How about we go and have a drink?”

The leader old geezer suggested.

“Maybe not. I still have other matters to attend to, let’s keep in touch...”

Lancey left in a hurry, seeming like she had an urgent matter.

“I’ll pass as well. It has been a tiring journey. I just want to find a place to have a good sleep!” Leylin rejected him with a smile.

He had only become temporary comrades with these people to hurry along with the journey, so there was not much friendship between him and them. Besides, the crime he had committed was not light, so it would be better if he rushed to the domain of the light Magi as quickly as possible.

After Leylin, the big bloke, and the other two magicians also

rejected the old geezer's suggestion.

The old geezer shrugged helplessly and looked at Leylin as he left the bar.

Outside the pub were a couple of narrow streets that were paved with flagstones. It was dark all around, and only the lanterns outside the pub still gave off a couple soft rays of light.

"It's already dark!!" Leylin checked out his surroundings "It's probably wise to first find a place to rest..."

[Warning! Warning! High energy force field convergence detected ahead, determined to be a rank 1 offensive spell!]

The moment he stepped out of the bar. Leylin felt his scalp go numb, the blood vessels deep inside his body also started to surge and boil, emitting a sense of foreboding.

At the same time, A.I. Chip also started to project a large amount of red letter of warning.

"This attack is aimed at me!"

Leylin's mind was working on overdrive. His body turned into a blur as he dodged to the side.

Boom!

Suddenly, powerful energy waves exploded in front of Leylin. Dozens of weapons made of a silvery metal formed a metallic storm, which raged at the area where Leylin had previously stood.

The bar was directly cut in half, and the ceiling was shattered, exposing countless stupefied magicians and the painful groans of those who had hurt by the aftermath.

“Kid, I have found you!”

As the debris settled, upon the ruins stood a midget, who was staring at Leylin’s face with a pair of eyes that were like daggers.

“You are... part of the Lilytell family?!”

Leylin patted the dust off his body, and calmly squared off against the midget.

Among the people and powers that he had offended, only that elder of the Lilytell family could have this kind of enmity and capability. In addition, the spell was similar to what Bosain had used.

“You are courting death!”

Leylin’s actions had clearly enraged his opponent. The midget waved his hand as countless metallic fluids floated up in midair to

form weapons such as long spears and giant swords. On the surface, it even radiated the acute radiation of energy forcefield.

“Go!” With a point of his finger, the metallic weapons once again chopped down at Leylin.

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin chanted his spell at lightning speed. From the shadows a dozen black fireballs emerged and collided against the metallic weapons, causing violent magical explosions.

[Target’s magic determined as Metallic. Degree of attack: 32 degrees!] The A.I. Chip probed this information, which let Leylin release a breath of relief.

“You do have some skills, no wonder you could kill my subordinates and my grandson!”

The midget said.

“So you are the elder of the Lilytell family and the grandfather of Bosain? Quite without scruples!” Leylin retorted.

“This... gentleman, this bar is under the protection of the Dorian family, within this...”

From the ruins, the old geezer with the white beard and glasses

that was tending the bar finally stepped forward.

“I know!” the midget tossed over a piece of metal. “I have met your family’s Buffett a couple of times, this is his keepsake! And there is even a message on it!”

“So, it is Master Lilytell, who is here to apprehend a criminal!”

The old geezer threw Leylin a gaze of pity, then hurriedly bowed to the midget. “Since that’s the case, the Dorian family will maintain a neutral stand on this!”

“Huh, kiddo, you’re able to escape well! Did you think the rules here could save you?”

The midget looked at Leylin with an unspeakable expression filled with schadenfreude, as if he wanted to see Leylin’s expression of despair. “The strong dictate the rules, and the weak can only obey. This is the norm of the world”.

The midget spread his hands. “The ignorant fools that dare to provoke my Lilytell family must pay the price in blood!”

Rays after rays of white metallic light appeared from the body of the midget. In just a moment, a silvery metal armor formed on his body.

The metal energy particles in the air kept revolving around the midget, emitting bright and dazzling lights.

“This... this kind of strength! It’s a semi-converted elemental Magus!!”

The large bloke and the leading old geezer who had arrived with Leylin hadn’t left, and they were now looking with shocked gazes at Leylin and the midget as they stood in the middle of the battlefield.

“No wonder he was in such a hurry to leave, he had actually gotten himself in such big trouble, tsk tsk! A semi-converted elemental Magus...”

A hint of schadenfreude flashed by the leading geezer’s eyes. According to him, since the opponent was a semi-converted elemental Magus and Leylin had been caught up to, it spelled certain death for Leylin!

In the Magus world, a semi-converted elemental Magus was a Magus with an elemental essence conversion that was higher than 50%!

This kind of strength was pretty good in the entirety of the south coast. If no chairman of some major academies or the like stepped in, you could basically walk around the south coast uncontested.

One could say that even if all the Magi in the whole bar came together, they still wouldn’t be able to stop this one lone midget.

What about Leylin? He was only a fledgling Magus, and might not even know what elemental essence conversion was. The leading geezer didn't even think Leylin would survive this.

“Right! There are also these people!”

After recklessly leaking some of his power, the midget turned around to look at the geezer and the big bloke. He then said, “Is he one of your acquaintances?”

“My Lord! My Lord!”

The geezer was now bowing, his head almost touching the ground. “I did not know this person's past, and I also did not know that he was someone that was wanted by the great Lilytell family! Otherwise, I would have....”

Pa! Pa!

By the time that the geezer had said half of his plead for mercy, Leylin and the midget had charged towards each other in the shadows. The ruins were unceasingly shaking.

“He only used you to disrupt Leylin's attention...” The big bloke, standing at one side, said with a laugh.

“What do you know?” the leader old geezer said, as he awkwardly got up.

At this moment, Leylin's body was covered in fine black scales. It gave off a brilliant shine, and his body muscles began to bulge. He kept colliding into the silver-armored silhouette.

The surrounding buildings could collapse immediately at the slightest brush. The two men seemed to have morphed into ancient beasts, recklessly displaying the violent strength of their bodies.

Bang!

The silver-armored silhouette waved his fist, and a mass of liquid metal automatically adhered to it, turning the normal fist into a barbed fist cover.

Leylin's expression didn't change. His hand emitted a dark red glow, as he fiercely rammed it against the barbed fist.

Boom!!! The atmosphere continuously exploded, resulting in plumes of dust particles.

From the inside of the dust, two figures could be seen flying upside down.

Bang Bang! Several houses at both sides were knocked over, but the ones who lived there were mostly acolytes. Upon seeing official Magi fight, everyone distanced themselves from the fight, and no one stepped out to discuss the fight.

“Sure enough, at an official Magi battle, the key is to be able to use formidable magic in the blink of an eye. The enemy will not give you much time to prepare any magic!”

Leylin waved his right hand, which was turning numb.

Crash! After turning numerous somersaults in the air, out emerged the silver-armoured midget, “I’ve underestimated you, kid!”

The midget revealed a sinister smile. “However, no matter what, you’ll have to die here today!”

“Oh really?”

Leylin showed a smile on the corner of his mouth, “But I think I can still live for a long time!”

“Unfortunately, this is just a body!” The midget suddenly said a strange verse and his body started to make rattling and crackling sounds.

Hong hong hong!!! The midget’s face became twisted, and his body muscles began to swell. In the blink of an eye, he turned into a three-metre tall giant!

Kacha! Kacha!

The giant's clothes split open, and on the left side of his chest, there was an old man's face, with silver coloured hair, and metallic ornaments on his face.

“Today, you're doomed to die here. Your spirit will burn forever!”

The old geezer stared at Leylin as he opened his mouth to chant an incantation.

Chapter 145: Teljose City

“This looks like it was caused by some sort of body possession spell!”

The knowledgeable Leylin was quick in assessing the situation.

“Old geezer, you only have the strength of a semi-converted elemental Magus, and you want to take me down?” Although Leylin looked like he could not have cared less, his right hand had already reached into his belt pouch.

Boom!

With a flip of his hands, a couple of potions exploded on the giant’s body. Following the explosion, a cloud of purple flame engulfed the giant’s body and continued to erode it.

“Negative energy flames? Child’s play!” The giant shook his head and widened his mouth to let out what seemed like a vacuum force, sucking all of the flames into his abdomen.

“Now, it’s my turn!” The giant let out a satisfying belch and grinned at Leylin.

In an instant, the giant turned into a silver flash and appeared right in front of Leylin.

The giant's huge body structure and protruding muscles were faintly oppressing Leylin.

Whoosh! The giant's skin was suffused with a metallic silver tone. It swung its mace-like arms towards Leylin, and Leylin could only raise both his arms up to protect his chest.

Peng!

Like an artillery shell, Leylin's body was rammed viciously into a wall, causing a large building to collapse in half.

Bang! The rubble rolled apart and revealed Leylin's figure.

[Host's ribs fractured, multiple muscle injuries, immediate medical attention recommended!] The A.I. Chip alerted.

"Such great strength, it must be at least 15 or greater! On top of the amplification caused by its metallic element"

Leylin's eyes flashed blue, "A.I. Chip, input the site information, activate the prediction system!"

[Site data transmitted, simulating opponent's information!] The A.I. Chip's voice intoned. Moreover it projected a 3D image for Leylin to look at.

[According to the opponent's movement, the next attack will

appear at an angle of 38 degrees on the right side. Probability: 98.7%!]

Shua! Just then, the giant charged over again.

[Most optimal action: Duck to the left at 63 degrees, jump backwards!]

Leylin's body twisted and barely avoided the attack of the giant, before hurriedly jumping back.

Pu

At this moment, many half-metre-long metal spikes were piercing the ground where Leylin had stood before. If Leylin were still standing there, he would have died.

To outsiders, Leylin was extremely nimble, making inconceivable dodging movements and evasions as he avoided a barrage of attacks.

“He could actually stall a Magus who has converted half of his elemental essence and also has a reinforced body!”

The old geezer was drenched in cold sweat. “I still thought...”

“You thought that he was just a budding Magus that can be bullied easily, right?” The huge bloke said. “Count yourself lucky,

old man! Managing to survive to this point hasn't been an easy task!"

On the other side of the battlefield, the giant was visibly agitated because of Leylin's successful evasive maneuvers. The human face on top of the left side of its chest blustered, "Damn it! Goddamn pest!"

After which, the giant executed a maneuver.

Using its large hands, it broke apart its own stomach and pulled out what looked like a golden hoop.

"Hoop of Imprisonment!"

A bright white light emitted from within the golden hoop and immediately struck Leylin.

As the white luminescence fell upon him, Leylin was shocked to realize that his body had been weighted down by what seemed like an entire mountain. He could not move a single inch.

"Although this type of magical artifact is only of middle grade, It has been said that even a semi-converted elemental Magus would be shackled for at least a minute by its imprisonment powers!"

Blood continued to flow from the silver giant's abdomen, and its guts were visibly hanging out. Unperturbed, the giant advanced towards Leylin and started choking his neck. Its eyes danced with

gleeful ridicule, “Now, run for me, little thing!”

“It’s over!”

The crowd in the vicinity sighed.

“Being in a deadlock with a semi-converted elemental Magus for such a long time did not change the fact that he is just a budding Magus. On top of that, the opponent had a middle-grade magical artifact!”

The bespectacled, white-bearded, old geezer from the pub lost his earlier look of pity, and with a tinge of regret, he said, “What a shame! He was a gifted Magus”

“Young man, say your last words!”

A cold smile spread across the silver giant’s face.

“The person who should be saying his last words is you!” A wide smile spread across Leylin’s face.

“Fallen Star Pendant, activate!”

A dark red ray projected from Leylin’s chest and spread to his four limbs at a rapid rate. Immediately, Leylin held down the giant’s two hands. His pupils became vertical slits and carried an amber luster as they radiated a mysterious light.

Innate Spell—Eyes of Petrification!

*Kacha! Kacha!”

The silver giant’s expression became blank, after which an ash-grey color started to grow from the giant’s eyes. The ash-grey color covered the giant’s face in no time and spread quickly towards its chest and limbs.

“Petrifying magic? Goddamn!” The old geezers head on the giant’s chest cried out in an alarmed tone.

Following which, the old geezer ground his teeth, and spat a mouthful of blood on the giant’s body. With a metallic flash, the rate at which the petrifying spell was spreading on the giant’s body slowed down.

“To hell with you!”

Leylin reached out his right hand, and the glow from the Fallen Star Pendant turned into what looked like a long sword, which was then swung down.

Pu! On the first swing, the giant’s skull flew up.

On the second swing, Leylin directly dug out the old midget’s visage from the giant’s chest.

Pa! The face fell onto the ground. “I will not forgive you!” it shouted.

“It is I who will not forgive you!” With a cold look, Leylin stepped onto the human face.

“Ah...” A depressed voice sounded out, and a puddle of green blood slowly formed under Leylin’s foot.

.....

Huu Huu...

A light breeze passed. There was a deathly stillness in the crowd.

“He... he actually managed to slay a semi-converted elemental Magus!”

The old geezer with his hanging mouth opened constantly surveyed the surroundings as if he was looking for something.

Immediately, upon seeing Leylin’s gaze turn towards his direction, the old geezer put on a smile and flattered him by saying, “Master Leylin! Please forgive me for offending you, it was a misunderstanding...”

Looking at the old geezer who had changed his facial complexion,

Leylin shook his head and was not prepared to deal with him.

There will be no benefit even if I were to murder him. Leylin concluded that he himself was no homicidal maniac.

He picked up his bundle and the loot from his victory, and hastily left the scene. The surrounding crowd naturally opened up a path for him to exit. Magus or acolyte, nobody dared to make eye contact with Leylin.

“I must leave this place quickly!”

Leylin looked at the rapidly shrinking Andre Town in the distance and muttered to himself.

The midget from earlier was obviously just one of the many clones of the opponent.

This aligned with Leylin's earlier reports. According to the report, the Lilytell family's elders' powers should have reached an elemental essence conversion rate of 80% or more, which was the minimum requirement for initiating one's advancement to a level 2 Magus.

Based on an estimation, the midget earlier had, at most, a 50% elemental essence conversion rate. It was not very stable, and the difference between his and an elder's true strength was too huge.

Leylin had been introduced to this type of Magus before. It was

not easy for them to create a clone, as a copious amount of time and precious materials were needed. Furthermore, if their clone were destroyed, the Magus would be heavily affected as well.

So far, only the clone had chased him up till this point.

Leylin guessed that either the opponent was not able to be here physically, or the clone was intentionally placed on the other side of the Grand Canyon to facilitate communication and to do his bidding.

Regardless, the next wave of attacks from the Lilytell family would arrive soon.

“Speaking of territory, I am still within the boundaries of the dark Magi. Once I reach the domain of the light Magi, even the Lilytell family will not dare to trespass...”

.....

Leylin turned his head to take one last look and vanished into the darkness.

Months flew by unconsciously.

In the span of these months, Leylin hurried along his journey with little rest. He traversed large kingdoms, and finally entered the boundary of the light Magi’s domain.

In the south coast, there were two types of Magi. One type of Magus advocated violence, believed in natural selection, and looked up to the enduring dark Magi, while the other type was fond of peace, and revered the scientific research of the light Magi.

Within these two factions, there lay many different groups and academies. While there was a lack of cohesion and an abundance of friction between these groups and academies, they would always stand together as one whenever it was against an enemy.

The extent of the rule of the light Magi lay in the heart of the south coast, while the dark Magi occupied the more desolate outlying areas.

From Leylin's observations, this sort of distribution of territory looked like a couple of concentric circles. The light Magi occupied the most fertile land in the middle, while the dark Magi occupied everything else around it.

After a prolonged period of travel, Leylin found it hard not to admit that the light Magi territory was generally more prosperous than that of the dark Magi. The commoners in the light Magi territory also enjoyed more peace and stability.

In regards to government administration, the light Magi had to do much more than the dark Magi in order to keep a firm hold on the vast and rich territory

According to the map on the A.I. Chip, Leylin would reach the

market place of the light Magi domain, Teljose City, by today.

Leylin had few opportunities to change out of his black robe. He changed out into a clean set of leather armour.

The exquisite armour comfortably fit Leylin's well-proportioned body, and brought about an air of heroic spirit, making him look more masculine.

The light Magi instinctively viewed the dark Magi as their adversaries, so Leylin did not wish to incur any trouble by doing something rash.

Although it might only be a trade centre, there would surely be people, like the dark Magi, who were there to sell their contraband items. Leylin took extra caution and kept a low profile.

Following the horses, Leylin forged on ahead. He observed that the pathways became wider and wider, and the people used a larger variety of transportation devices to aid in their travels.

Upon further observation, he came across a variety of new and odd things.

For example, he observed a female Magus on a winged steed, and an old geezer on a hot air balloon. Hanging from the hot air balloon, there was a banner, which read, "Welcome to Hookety's miscellaneous goods shop, we have a supply of..."

Furthermore, Leylin even saw a few machines that resembled the components of futuristic vehicles. The machines, which carried a bunch of dwarfs, roared and rumbled loudly as it sped along the road.

Chapter 146: Jenna

Amongst those who were travelling on the same route as Leylin, there were not only magicians, but also many regular people.

Most of the regular people rode on horse carriages, and they stored large amounts of vegetables and fruits at the back.

Even though they might treat magicians with much respect, it was obvious that they held no fear when facing them. It seemed that in the light Magi domain, magicians were often revered, yet were on close terms with the civilians.

This situation somewhat puzzled Leylin. In a kingdom where the dark Magi ruled, the mere mention of Magi would give rise to thoughts of terror and bloodshed. Even an acolyte would be enough to scare away a whole town of people.

“By the looks of it, the fact that light Magi and regular humans are able to coexist harmoniously is true!” Leylin glanced at a farmer who had taken off his hat to greet him, and nodded in acknowledgement.

“And...” His blue eyes shone, “There is no trace of radiation in his body. Does this have to do with the purification tower?”

In the area under the light Magi’s rule, white lofty towers were erected a distance away from each other. The towers were able to neutralise the radiation from magicians, which was vital in

allowing magicians and regular humans to mingle within this area.

As for the area ruled by dark Magi, Leylin had once seen inside the library at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the designs for the Purification tower. But, it was apparent that the dark Magi were disinclined to build such a thing in their own territories. Besides the problem of the costs of constructing such a tower, Leylin guessed that the dark Magi liked to rule the commoners with a bloody and terrible regime.

As the mount was continuously flying, Leylin felt that his horizons was continuously expanding.

Green waves, almost like the waves of an ocean, was rippling in the breeze, giving off a thick atmosphere.

Here was the Teljose Great Plains which covered an area of several thousands of square kilometers and had several cities with population larger than 100,000.

And the Teljose City was located in the middle of this huge plains, and was the central zone of this huge region.

“The vegetation is lush and abundant here!”

Leylin heaved a heartfelt sigh. The closer he got to the Teljose City, the more lushly the crops were growing, as if they were fond of people. There were even wheat plants which were as tall as a man — seeing which Leylin felt moved.

“Isn’t this very amazing? Are you a Magus from outside this region?”

A red pony suddenly drew to a halt besides Leylin’s own saddled mount, and the female Magus sitting atop this red pony, spoke to Leylin.

This female Magus wore a white, Chinese-styled gown, and wore a necklace strung with pearls and precious stones around her neck. Her appearance was quite ordinary, but on her face, she wore a gentle smiling expression.

Leylin had experienced this feeling of tranquility a few times.

Although this female Magus radiated the energy waves of a rank 1 Magus, she had very little actual combat experience. There was only one layer of innate defense spell upon her body, which appeared to suffice for her.

“That’s right, Miss, I come from afar and am a wandering Magus! You can call me Leylin!”

Leylin put on a harmless smile as he introduced himself.

“My name is Jenna, I’m a local Magus of Teljose. You are surprised upon seeing these many crops, aren’t you?”

The female Magus smiled and struck a conversation with Leylin.

“Indeed, you seldom see wheat grow this tall and let’s not forget the quantity...” “Leylin’s face suffused with a puzzled expression.

“This is a Magus’ blessing! In a while you can experience it by yourself!”

The female Magus wore an expression of mystery but also expectation.

“I’m looking forward to it!” Leylin smiled briefly.

He could judge with just a look that this woman is like an innocent sheep, lacking the experience of meeting Magi of her peers and extremely curious about everything.

Just like a young lady from a large family, that has wandered off.

Afterwards Leylin stopped observing these matters, as the City of Teljose was appearing in front of Leylin’s eyes.

In Leylin’s line of sight, there first appeared a black dot.

Afterwards, that black dot increased in size as if it turned into a dark cloud, enveloping the whole sky.

Leylin's jaw dropped — he saw a tall and erect mountain, reaching through the clouds and standing quietly on the plains.

Leylin had seen a lot of large mountains in his past life, but he was sure that he'd never seen a mountain so large that it could cover the skies.

In addition, on that large mountain there were numerous tightly packed buildings and black dots moving around on the many layers on that mountain.

At the foot of the mountain, a large tall city wall was erected in a circular fashion. A visual estimate gave its height at a couple of dozen meters and that it was entirely made out of grey granite. It looked extremely impressive.

At the giant peak of the mountain, there were layers of luxuriant snow. Smoke was continuously emitted from the peak, as if it was going to erupt at any given moment.

“An active volcano! Teljose City is erected on an active volcano!” Leylin gasped.

“Correct! Keep on looking around!”

The Magus Jenna pointed towards the opening of the volcano with a laugh.

Boom!

Countless black smokes were rising, the whole volcano was coming to life. Just like a mythical giant laughing sadistically at the sky.

A giant pillar of smoke rushed into the sky, coloring part of the sky black.

“Strange, why were there no tremors?”

Leylin came to sudden realization, “this must be the work of the Magi of Teljose City?”

“Correct, continue to look!” Jenna pointed towards the black clouds, “Magus’ blessing will soon descend!”

Rumble!

A soft rain was arising, tiny droplets of black rain were falling through the breeze.

Black rain fell on the ground, turning the whole ground ashen grey.

Soon a couple of farmers ran out from the fields, kneeled in front of Leylin, Jenna and other Magi and kowtowed respectfully as they said, “We thank our lords, the Magi, for our harvest!”

“This is volcanic ash?!”

Leylin’s body started to emit grey light, it enveloped the giant steed and kept the black rain on the outside. He extended his right hand to collect a drop of grey rain drop and started to examine it.

“Looks like some artificial things have been added to it, it resembles nitrogen-based fertilizer!”

Volcanic ash was naturally nutrient-rich, which was conducive for plant growth. Coupled with some other things the magicians had added, it was no wonder crops here had an astonishing form and output.

“That’s right, the Magi control the Teljose Volcano’s eruption. They transport and evenly distribute the volcanic ash across the plains and fertilize the land. As for resources such as geothermal energy, the Magi will collect them and convert them into a source of power for Teljose City. Hence, the alternate name for Teljose City that I love even more — Nightless City!”

Jenna explained

“..... This technology is simply amazing!” Leylin murmured. Teljose Volcano, as compared to the biggest volcano Leylin saw before his reincarnation, was much broader. To control such a big live volcano, they needed constant maintenance and magic spell formations, which exceeded what Leylin could have thought of.

Furthermore, to directly control a volcano as a power source and a place to live... This kind of design and boldness left Leylin feeling admiration towards these Magi.

“But, please forgive my bluntness, I’ve once travelled to the eastern region. The magicians there don’t seem to spare a thought for the normal people...”

Leylin properly expressed his curiosity.

“Yes, magicians are a group of intellectual people. They did this because it was for their benefit.” Jenna nodded her head. “The way we see it, the normal people that are alive are also a type of resource. Besides, as long as there is sufficient people, they can serve us at all times, procuring resources, and in addition, sow our seeds and producing acolytes of excellent quality, increasing new bloods...”

“Hence, in the middle of our light Magi region, not only were there Magi who specialised in solidification innate spells to be used for helping to prevent all kinds of natural disasters, there’s even a full-time Magus in charge of farming land and increasing harvest yield...”

“This... this really is...”

Leylin wore a shocked expression while secretly releasing a breath of relief.

Although Jenna seemed pure and straightforward, she still considered herself superior to regular humans, similar to how the dark Magi thought.

The one difference they had was in their system.

Akin to the herding of sheep, dark Magi tended to operate in a more boorish manner and would reap the harvest at irregular intervals. In comparison, light Magi adopted a micro-management style, taking special care of each and every sheep.

But they both had the same purpose — to obtain the needed materials from regular humans.

Just based on this process, Leylin felt that the regular humans in the light Magi region had a more comfortable life, compared to those living in Poolfield Kingdom.

However, although Leylin could lament over the hardships faced by the regular humans, it did not mean that he thought of reducing the power and authority that the Magi held; it was foolish to advocate an ideal of achieving equality between all humans.

Not mentioning the mysteries and strength of the Magus world, even Leylin himself only believed in one truth — that one's status would determine one's course of action.

Leylin himself was a Magus and fully supported the privileges and political power that all Magi had. As for those who had

delusions of overthrowing the Magi in power, they would be killed immediately.

As part of a higher tier in the social pyramid, it was only natural to consciously defend the rights and privileges of that social class.

Naturally, there were also the strange ones who chose to betray their peer's interests, and would eventually be abandoned by their own peers.

Leylin concluded that: unless there were any signs of the Magi falling out of power, he would definitely not betray his peers.

“Very surprising, isn't it?”

Jenna laughed, “Seems like you've always been travelling around the dark Magi region. But once you've arrived at the Nightless City, you'll need to learn to acclimatize, and adapt to the new rules...”

Jenna's words implied that she had discovered Leylin's true identity.

But Leylin only picked up his eyebrow and didn't seem to care in the slightest.

Teljose City, or reputed for being a Nightless City, on one hand was the accumulation of the light Magi's hard work, and on the other hand was supported by the dark Magi.

If the dark Magi was totally removed, then Nightless City's total trades would immediately fall by more than half!

No trade center would reject a dark Magi member from joining them.

Chapter 147: Prophecy

From what Leylin gathered, dark Magi from all over the continent disguised themselves in order to enter Nightless City each day. Their aim was to trade items, amongst other activities.

The guards of the city turned a blind eye to their actions.

It could be said that Nightless City's prosperity was largely dependent on the dark Magi.

Within the city, as long as dark Magi did not intentionally reveal their identity, light Magi would not bother about them.

Hence, Leylin simply smiled and told Jenna, "I came to the Teljose Plains to seek a peaceful way of life. I'm willing to abide by the rules here."

"Nightless City is a fertile and beautiful city. I'm sure you'll like it here!"

Jenna laughed and said.

Leylin made small talk with Jenna and managed to gather quite a lot of exclusive information about the city.

Leylin had seen a glimpse of Volcano City in the afternoon, but it

was only after the sky dimmed that he reached the gate.

At the moment, there were rows of people queueing up in front of the gates of the city.

The numerous heads seemed like ants as they were separated into different groups and entered various entrances.

Leylin noticed that beside the many small doors, there were also several huge passages. The gates to the city itself were over ten metres high, and the passageways were closed.

“These doors are for giants and large creatures, so they aren’t usually open!” Jenna explained at the side.

“As for us, we are official Magi, so we are able to enter by the prestigious pass!”

Jenna explained as she led Leylin to a smaller door which was quieter.

As for the doors on both sides, there were even a dozen guards with the strength of level 3 acolytes, their bodies radiating the energy waves of their magic artifacts.

“Respected Lords, may I ask if it is a temporary or permanent lodging...”

After seeing Leylin and Jenna, these dozen acolytes immediately bowed and greeted them.

Leylin noticed that they held a circular item that was emitting the glow of a magic spell, in their hands. Looking at the runes on the surface, it should be the runes formation to detect energy waves.

Jenna immediately raised her right hand and revealed a white ring on her finger.

The ancient ring had a silver body with detailed inscriptions on the surface, constantly emitting bits and pieces of light.

“So it’s a Lord who has a permanent residence. Please enter!” The acolytes respectfully made way.

“It’s my first time here. Are there any procedures I need to follow?” Leylin asked the acolyte from before.

“Yes. For magicians who enter for the first time, we have a simple procedure. You can pay 200 magic crystals and obtain permanent residence, or spend 10 magic crystals and stay in Nightless City for a month!”

“Handle a permanent residence for me!” Leylin immediately tossed out two high-grade magic crystals.

“Of course. Please wait a moment...” The acolyte quickly

produced a piece of parchment and scribbled something on it.
“May I have your name?”

“Leylin Farlier!” This was the light Magi’s territory and the Lilytell Family’s influence did not extend to this area. Leylin decided to use his real name.

“Here is your token. Please keep it well!”

The whole process was surprisingly straightforward. The acolyte merely asked for Leylin’s name, noted it down, and then passed him a silver ring.

“This is a token you will need to enter the city. Please keep it safe! Also, please do not linger on the streets after 12am. If not, the law enforcement group will apprehend you!”

The acolyte reminded him as he bowed.

Leylin nodded in understanding before leaving with Jenna, who had been waiting at the side.

“Jenna, I’ve been waiting for you!” Leylin went through a passage that was around five or six metres deep, and before he even had the chance to look around the city, he heard a hoarse voice.

A burly blonde man who had been standing at the door for some time immediately rushed forward with a worried expression.

“Uncle Manla!” Jenna put on a coquettish expression and immediately embraced the large man. “Jenna missed you!”

“Haha...Me too!” The burly man smiled and looked at Leylin beside her.

“This fellow reeks of blood, it seems like he’s from the eastern marshes!”

The murderous aura and strong scent of blood from Leylin’s body immediately caused the man to raise his guard against Leylin. He positioned himself between Leylin and Jenna.

“This is...” The burly man’s glared at him, as if ready to make a move the moment he misspoke.

“This is Leylin, someone I met along the way!” Jenna hung on to Manla’s arm.

“He’s a wandering Magus who is planning to stay in Nightless City!”

“Really? This is a city that advocates peace and harmony, so I hope you’ll enjoy your stay here. Here is a complete map of the city!”

The burly man showed him a kind smile and passed the map to

Leylin. It was very obvious that he did not want Leylin to travel together with Jenna.

“Many thanks!” Leylin grinned brightly.

He could understand where the man was coming from. If he were a parent who saw his child mixing with a suspicious person, he would have the same reaction.

“It was great fun travelling with you! I’ll see you again, milady!” Leylin turned to Jenna with a smile and gave a gentleman’s bow, and Jenna answered with a bashful expression.

Having received the map, Leylin took a quick look at it and entered the trade centre of the south coast, also known as the Teljose Volcano City, where the night was as bright as day.

The burly man waited till Leylin was completely gone before turning to the female Magus, a stern expression on his face.

“Jenna, from what I know, you don’t usually get this close with strangers?”

The large man put on a puzzled expression.

“I don’t know why, but I have some premonition that makes me want to get closer to him...” Jenna’s eyes seemed to cloud over.

“Or perhaps, this is what fate decreed!”

“That seems plausible!” The man scratched his head. “The high-grade meditation technique that you’re cultivating in may not be very powerful, but at times, it is able to accurately pinpoint a trace of the future. Since that Magus gives you such a peculiar feeling, do you need me to send someone to check out...”

“Leave it! I have a feeling that if we do that, it’ll definitely incur his displeasure.”

Jenna’s eyes suddenly turned completely white, with no hints of any other colour.

“Twice! You actually made two prophecies about him!”

The burly man looked shocked. “That Magus’ fate is sure to be intertwined with yours!”

“Not me, but the whole of the south coast!”

The female Magus’ eyes regained their colour, cold sweat pouring down her face. She looked as if all of her energy had been wrenched from her.

“Quick, send me back to grandmother’s place!”

Jenna spat out and immediately fainted.

“Jenna! Jenna!” The expression on the burly man’s face was grim as he held her in his arms and quickly left the area...

Leylin, however, was completely oblivious to the situation. He was currently strolling through the streets of the Nightless City.

The moment he entered, Leylin’s first impression was—People! A sea of people!

Numerous heads were gathered close to each other, forming a sea of blackness. There were also various stores, as well as stands that were messily displayed. The constant haggling and bawling noises attacked the ears.

Many Magi and acolytes who were dressed in different coloured clothing were arguing aggressively with the vendors.

This almost reminded Leylin of the markets in his previous world.

However, the different races that he saw within the masses brought him back to the present.

There was the scaly marine race, the sub-humans with fur and marks all over their bodies, the smaller version of giants who were over five meters tall, as well as the little green people who had pairs of transparent wings on their backs, dancing gracefully in the air.

Many lifeforms from the Magus world were communicating with each other, their speech slipping back to parts of their own languages.

Among the humans, Leylin even saw several regular humans who had absolutely no energy waves radiating from them, and yet they were still confidently trading items on the street out in the open.

“My Lord, is it your first time in Nightless City?”

Leylin’s intrigued expression naturally attracted the attention of many people. A man who was so skinny that he was like a stick approached Leylin as he bowed, wearing a flattering expression on his face.

“Do you need a tour guide? My fee is definitely the lowest. Moreover, my home is within Nightless City, so I am familiar with every nook and cranny in this place!”

“Are you the ‘ears’ of this city?”

Leylin inquired to clarify.

“Of course. If there is anything that you want to know, I could also make some inquiries...”

“What is your name?” Leylin asked.

“Sean! My Lord, you can call me Sean.” The thin man was delighted as this situation meant it was possible to seal the deal.

“Good. I wish to stay here for an extended period of time. Take me to a place where I can rent some lodgings. It must have all the facilities!”

“If you wish to stay here for long, renting an apartment which is in the heart of Nightless City would be the most worthwhile!” Sean said quickly without needing to think.

As if fearing that Leylin did not understand, Sean quickly went on, “The heart of the city is controlled by several large factions that back Nightless City. There are different types of apartments for sale, and they are generally quite safe and convenient...”

“Very well, let’s go there!”

Leylin nodded his head, and Sean hurriedly led the way with a gleeful expression.

After going through the throng of people and walking for about half an hour, Sean brought Leylin to a small door.

“Nightless City has five zones, and the outermost zone is meant for regular people and acolytes to live in. Its organisation is the most chaotic, and as long as one is in possession of a token, he or she can enter and leave the city at will.”

“The second zone is reserved for those who have done the paperwork to stay here permanently. Of course, Official Magi are allowed to stay here too!” Sean brought Leylin to the queue in front of the door and explained further.

“As for the third and fourth zone, they are the residences of the official Magi. There is also a trade area specifically catered to the official Magi erected within the zone.”

“Lastly, we have the fifth zone, where various powers have established their branches there. Usually, they are not open to the public and if you are not a member, you are not allowed to enter!”

Sean gave Leylin a clear explanation.

Chapter 148: The Communal Centre

The queue progressed quickly, and within a few minutes, it was Leylin's turn.

Leylin produced the ring he had recently acquired, and showed it to the guard, who respectfully stepped aside to allow him to pass.

The second zone was a lot bigger than the first, and the shops were arranged in an organised manner, unlike the situation in the first zone.

Thud Thud

His leather shoes thudded as they descended upon the marble floor.

With Sean's guidance, Leylin arrived at the centre of the second zone.

What was known as the communal centre was situated at the middle of the second zone. It was a humongous building that, based on its outward appearance, looked like a person's inverted palm pressed to the ground.

Each of those fingers was a wide entrance.

Magicians formed long lines, looking like ants as they constantly went through the entrances.

“This is where the Nightless City’s internal affairs are conducted. These includes the renting of lodgings, the applications for store licenses, the issuing of missions, and so on.”

Sean brought Leylin into the passageway on the forefinger.

“This is the second passage that is specially catered for the Magi who wish to rent lodgings. Of course, we also provide property agents, though the price will be higher and the rentals may not be of the best quality...”

“Sir, would you like to rent a lodging? Come to Old Hork’s place! Our facilities are complete, and there are even snake and fox girls who will serve you!”

“No! Come to our side. Our prices are the most reasonable here, and we’re even willing to gift you ten regular human servants.”

The moment Leylin entered, he attracted the attentions of multiple agents, who all looked ready to gobble him down.

“He’s my customer! Get out of the way! Move!”

Sean guided Leylin to a passageway nearby, pushing away the overzealous hands reaching for him.

Within the passage was a spiral staircase. When they got to the second level, Leylin suddenly realised how quiet his surroundings were.

As they passed through a door frame that read “Hall No. 762,” Leylin saw a large domed hall.

On the ceiling, there was a huge crystal chandelier from which multicoloured rays of light bounced off, casting a phantom image on the ground.

To the side of the domed hall, there were many counters, and a few seats meant for people to wait in. A few magicians were already seated, their eyes glazed over as if they were about to fall asleep.

On the right wall, there was also a black screen. There were words in red on it which were constantly being refreshed.

“Apartment #332, West Hall Street West, small sized — costs 6700 magic crystals!”

“Apartment #893, Flamingo Street, of medium size — costs 85000 magic crystals!”

“These lodgings are all second-hand. The prices here are considerably cheaper, and many people wait here, hoping they might be lucky enough to get a good price...” Seeing the look of

interest on Leylin's face, he launched into an explanation.

Leylin was speechless, the thought of a real estate agency from his past life suddenly came to his mind.

"If you wish to rent an apartment, you can proceed to counters 1 to 15. Would you like me to queue on your behalf?"

"Fine," Leylin nodded.

Even though he had quite a sum at hand, he was unwilling to splurge on an apartment so quickly, when he had not yet made sense of the situation in Nightless City.

Seeing all of these ridiculously high prices made Leylin think of the acolytes back in the academy who were so desperate for magic crystals that they wished a magic crystal was worth twice its actual value. The image made him want to cry and laugh at the same time.

There were many counters in the hall. After Sean left to join a queue, Leylin found himself a seat and began to flip through one of the magazines left on a table.

"Rose Sanctuary and Fresh Blood White Bones are currently in a conflict. They are currently gathered in Margaret City, and the number of casualties is unknown..."

"It has been reported that magicians have found the culprit that

caused the tsunami in the Eastern Sea-an Ancient Whale. Currently, Ennea Ivory Ring Tower is holding an emergency meeting to discuss countermeasures...”

“Looking to purchase large quantities of purified gems. Name your price.”

There was plenty of news in the magazine, though they seemed outdated. Furthermore, the majority of the content was on advertisements, sponsorships and the like.

“Sir, it’s your turn now!”

Sean’s voice travelled over. Leylin put down the magazine, heading to the 13th counter where Sean was standing.

“Welcome! How may I help you?”

Behind the counter was an adorable girl with a professional smile on her face, who was wearing something that was similar to lace. She seemed quite young, and Leylin guessed that she was, at most, eighteen or nineteen years old.

Leylin’s gaze shifted to the back of the counter, where he caught a glimpse of the white ball behind the maiden’s shapely backside.

“Of all the half beasts, someone who’s half-rabbit?” Leylin chuckled inwardly, not expecting the centre to actually hire a rabbit maiden.

“I wish to rent a house. The facilities must be complete, and it is best if it includes a laboratory, and the defensive spell formation has to be of at least this standard...”

Leylin stated his requirements.

“Please wait for a moment...” The rabbit maiden quickly flipped through the stack of parchments in front of her, closing her eyes from time to time while caressing a crystal ball with a metal base, as if she was communicating with someone.

“We have many houses that fit your requirements, but in order to rent a lodging in Nightless City, we require you to show evidence of... Ah! My lord! My sincerest apologies!”

Upon seeing the silver ring that Leylin revealed, the rabbit maiden’s previously absent-minded expression completely changed.

She stood and bowed, showing her charming body and sturdy thighs, and the rabbit’s tail behind her backside occasionally appearing. It gave one the urge to reach forward and grab hold of it. “So it was an official Magi! Please excuse Bayjess’ rude behaviour!”

“It’s fine. Tell me about the houses!”

Leylin withdrew his right hand.

“For an official Magus of such high esteem, we strongly recommend apartments that are in the third zone or above. There is a total of thirteen empty houses that meet your requirements...”

As she spoke, she continued to rub the surface of the blue crystal ball.

Rainbow coloured lights converged in front of Leylin and the multicoloured streaks formed many three-dimensional figures.

From the looks of it, it was a map of Nightless City, on which there were thirteen bright spots.

“All information about the apartments are on it, and there are also figures that allow you to view the structures of the lodgings.”

Leylin took a quick look. All of the apartments were in the second zone or above, and the total area of the land was rather large. They were at least medium sized villas that included gardens and other entertainment facilities.

Nightless City was built on a mountain, and the higher up one went, the more valuable every inch became. In a place like this, the privileges and extravagant lifestyle that magicians were entitled to were especially evident from the area of land they had access to.

Leylin raised his hand and pressed on the villa that he was interested in.

Ding!

With a flash of white light, the model was magnified, and a three-dimensional figure was displayed in front of him.

“Medium-sized villa’s location: Nightless City Zone 3, Large Whale Street #56. It includes a laboratory, a defensive spell formation, a negative energy reaction pool...”

Beside the 3D figure, there was also a white frame that displayed more information about the villa.

“While this technology is based on magic, it’s just too similar to how it was in my past life...”

Leylin suddenly sighed.

While the foundations of the two worlds were extremely different, one being science, and the other being magic, it somehow made Leylin feel a little nostalgic.

“I’ll take this one. How much is the rent?”

Leylin pointed to one of the models and asked the rabbit maiden.

“Sir, the rent for this villa is a thousand magic crystals per month...” She peeked at Leylin, looking as if she wanted to say

something, and eventually made her mind. “If you join any one of the powers backing Nightless City, you’ll be gifted a villa, and...”

“Alright. Which family do you come from?”

Leylin was very much aware that these employees were part of the powers behind Nightless City, and it was naturally their job to attract talents. They were sure to receive attractive rewards for their work if they were successful.

“The Mordeken family! I come from the Mordeken Family!” The rabbit maiden lowered her collar and revealed a brand in the shape of a palm under her shoulder.

The shape of the palm was a little strange. Instead of having five fingers, as was the norm, there were actually six.

The sides of the brand were a little charred and twisted. From the looks of it, a branding iron had been used directly on her skin in the past. The contrast between that and the rabbit maiden’s delicate skin gave rise to an abnormal sense of beauty.

“I understand! If there’s anything I need in the future, I’ll consider the Mordeken family first!”

Leylin’s expression remained the same, seemingly unmoved by her attempts. Sean, on the other hand, was salivating at the offer.

“Here are the magic crystals. I’ll be renting it for a year.” Leylin

threw a small bag of magic crystals towards the back of the counter.

After being rejected, the rabbit maiden's expression slightly darkened, but she immediately forced a smile.

Even though she wasn't able to convince an official Magus to join the family, she would still receive some rewards from this transaction.

The rabbit maiden asked for the ring on Leylin's finger, and placed it in a device behind her, within which an exotic symbol was inscribed. She then respectfully returned it to Leylin.

"The pattern of the villa's defensive spell formation has already been marked onto your ring. You may enter the villa using the ring, and also make changes to the spell formation..."

Following which, the rabbit maiden passed Leylin a bunch of keys and a document.

"Here are the keys to the rooms in the villa, as well as some important information. I hope you have a pleasant stay there!"

Leylin retrieved the items and walked out of the hall with Sean.

"He actually spent over ten thousand magic crystals in one go..."

Sean still had a look of disbelief on his face.

Although he had heard of how certain magicians were able to spend unimaginable amounts of wealth, being in actual contact with someone who had the means to do so was still an entirely different feeling.

“Having met such a magnanimous customer, my rewards will definitely not be meagre. I might even be able to get a generous tip as well...”

Sean began to let his imagination run wild.

“Bring me to the villa and these will be yours!”

Leylin smiled, tossing a few magic crystals that were glistening temptingly.

“Of course! Your wish is my command!”

Sean’s eyes brightened, and he quickly ran to the front. “Please follow me! There’s not one place in Nightless City that I, Sean, am not aware of!”

Chapter 149: Trifling Issues

Rumble!

Crystal clear spring water continuously flowed from a white canteen.

Under the white canteen was a half-nude marble statue. The statue was depicting a poised, long-haired maiden. In her eyes, there was an expression of indolence and perplexity. One hand was tugging on the skirt on her lower body, and the other hand was holding a white canteen upside down.

The spring water gathered below, forming a small pond. Different colored pebbles and fishes in the pool were reflecting the light.

Next to the pond were was a small garden. Inside the garden were different coloured flowers of unknown names. Different fragrances were mixed together, but it didn't feel jumbled; instead it provided a unique scent that made one feel refreshed.

Leylin leisurely walked around the garden before returning to the villa.

This was the new villa that he had recently rented for a year. The address was: Nightless City Zone 3, Large Whale Street #56.

There were very strict regulations for each of the three zones.

The zones above the third one were only for official Magi and trade, with the exception of some specialised servants that were permitted to pass through.

This villa had a huge area, and its magic defenses against spells were also strong. According to Leylin, a level 3 acolyte, or even an official Magus, would have no chances of entering. If they wanted to destroy this place, it would require a huge amount of effort from them.

However, Leylin still wanted to add some modifications and more defensive spell formations to this place.

Regarding the spell formations that the Nightless City had, Leylin didn't trust them enough.

In the area around Leylin's villa, there was another Magi. Previously, there was even a red haired old man who waved to Leylin. He seemed quite friendly.

Click!

The sound of a copper key entering the lock could be heard, followed by the sound of a door opening with a squeak.

With his hands clasped behind his back, Leylin leisurely strolled around his villa.

This villa had 3 floors, two of them being above ground, and also a basement.

The apparatuses in the lab were very complete, and the furniture and other things were up to date, making Leylin feel that he had truly received his money's worth.

The bedroom was on the second floor and even had an open balcony.

Leylin stood on the balcony and observed the distant scenery.

The sun was setting; the dark curtain of night gradually enveloping the surroundings.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

By the side of the road, one lantern after another was being lit, extending far into the distance.

The little spots of light had an effect as they lit together, finally forming a huge body of light.

A bright — but not blinding — light flooded the entirety of the Nightless City.

“No wonder that Teljose City was referred to as the Nightless

City!” Leylin exclaimed.

While he was used to this kind of setting in his previous life, the Magus world was different. A huge amount of energy was needed to be able to support this many lights, and perhaps only the volcano’s never-ending geothermal energy could barely support the city’s needs.

Ding!

Something like an incandescent light bulb lit up inside Leylin’s room.

“All of this energy, this overbearing splendor, is provided by the communal centre free of charge!”

Leylin shook his head and commanded, “A.I. Chip scan the whole villa, and in addition, try to modify the defensive spell formations!”

Following Leylin’s command, a spot of glittering and sparkling blue light flashed in his eyes.

[Beep! The overall layout of the villa has been recorded, no tracking spells have been detected!]

The response from the A.I. Chip came after a very short amount of time.

[According to the Host's request, modifying the spell formation of the entire villa allows an optimization of 13%...]

Afterwards, the A.I. Chip projected the places where the spell formation needed to be altered in front of Leylin's eyes.

“Spell formations requires extreme fine-tuning, and once they are altered, even the places where they were previously concealed will be exposed...”

With a confident smile, Leylin brought out some materials from his bag in order to alter the villa's spell formations.

By the time that Leylin had hurriedly finished his work, it was already midnight.

Leylin then placed a warning spell outside his bedroom, before reclining on his soft bed.

The effort of constantly running while covering his back to prevent assassination attempts from the Lilytell Family had caused Leylin to be mentally exhausted.

Now that he had finally reached his destination, even the Lilytell family couldn't do anything inside the Nightless City. Leylin felt like a huge mountain had been lifted from his shoulders, allowing him to relax completely.

“Speaking of which, I only have these things left ever since I left the academy...”

Leylin opened the package and emptied its contents onto the bed.

A silver colored metallic hoop, a couple of separately packaged flowers and such, and an assortment of different materials and magic crystals appeared in front of Leylin.

First, Leylin brought out the metallic hoop.

This was the spoil of his fight against the clone. It was a counterfeit Hoop of Imprisonment recovered from the body of the Lilytell elder's clone. Even if it was a counterfeit, this magic artifact was still a middle-grade artifact. At that time, if it wasn't for the fact that Leylin had activated his Fallen Star Pendant, he might not have been able to escape the confinement of this magic artifact.

According to the A.I. Chip, there were no hidden traps, so Leylin took it for his own use. He was planning to later alter it, or just simply sell it.

Ever since Leylin's advancement, the A.I. Chip also received a huge upgrade.

A lot of things that he couldn't discern back when he was an acolyte were now laid bare before him.

That Lilytell elder was simply at the level of a rank 1 Magus, and couldn't hide anything from Leylin.

“Also, these ingredients need to be used soon. I've kept them for too long, and their medicinal properties are decreasing...”

Leylin looked at the several remaining stalks of plants and flowers which were under some preservation spells.

This was his loot from the Dylan Gardens. Previously, he had harvested them in a hurry, so their current appearance was not too pretty. Afterwards, he had been on the run, so he could not find much time to add more layers of preservation and maintenance spells. Hence, they currently were in a rather withered and dried up state.

A black diary lay quietly at the side. It was the Book of Giant Serpent, and even now Leylin had to flip through it every once in a while.

Although he had recorded everything with the A.I. Chip, Leylin still felt that the methods of the great Magus Serholm did not just end with the writings.

Moreover, the materials used to make the Book of Giant Serpent were extremely strange. The amount of information it could store was alarming, which gave Leylin the urge to conduct more research on it.

What was left was the Fallen Star Pendant hanging on Leylin's neck, as well as some magic crystals and some other miscellaneous items.

Everything that was present, if added together, was all of what Leylin had.

“A rank 1 Warlock wishing to advance must never lack in the meditation and bloodlines. If not, just based on hard work, it is simply too difficult. One requires the aid of resources!”

High-grade meditation technique required precious resources as a complement and they were extremely precious. Some even existed only back in ancient times, and they have been extinct by now.

Leylin summed up his wealth and realised that he would at most lead a comfortable life in Nightless City. If he thought of relying on what he currently had to obtain enough resources to advance into a rank 2 Warlock, it was no difference from a pipe dream.

Subconsciously, he looked at his current stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 28.4, Magic Power: 28 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 1%. Status: Healthy]

Every day, Leylin did not neglect his cultivation in a high-grade meditation technique. The Kemoyin's Pupil was indeed a well-suited meditation technique for his bloodline. Leylin could feel that his spiritual force was growing at a steady pace daily.

As for the progress of the elemental essence conversion, it was not that satisfying.

“According to the records of the meditation technique, the conversion progress is more difficult the higher it is. The stages of a semi-converted elemental Magus of 50% and a Magus with an elemental essence conversion of 80% especially are two bottlenecks. I wonder how many Magi had been obstructed from advancement because of this!”

Leylin's face was somewhat solemn, “Right now my spiritual force could be increased with a high-grade meditation technique, and my bloodline is extremely pure. These two aspects do not require further planning for now. The only thing holding me back right now is the progress of the elemental essence conversion!”

The breakthrough of a high-grade meditation technique will often lead a Magus to breakthrough automatically. Right now Leylin had 3 levels of the Kemoyin's Pupil meditation technique, so his spiritual force progress would just be a breeze.

As for the aspect of bloodlines, he had obtained the purified blood of an ancient creature, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. This creature, in its mature stages, could reach the level of a rank 4 Magus — a Morning Star Magus.

Right now Leylin was just a rank 1 Warlock, and with respect to the concentration of his bloodline — it could most likely surpass a pre-pubescent Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Every day, he could feel the strength of the bloodline affecting his body. According to Leylin's estimations, his second transition stage ever since obtaining the bloodline was soon approaching.

These two aspects left Leylin extremely satisfied. The one thing slowing down his progress was the elemental essence conversion.

The elemental essence conversion progress seemed to have something to do with the aptitude of a Magus' soul. As for Leylin, he only had a third-grade aptitude, which was a common, middle tiered aptitude.

The higher the aptitude of a soul, the faster the conversion would naturally become. People like Leylin could only slowly improve through the passing of time.

Leylin was, however, on the wanted list of a Magus family, so naturally, he did not want such a slow progress.

Apart from relying on time to progress, some precious ingredients could also hasten the progress of the elemental essence conversion.

However, Leylin looked at the ingredients on his bed.

“The Book of Giant Serpent must never be sold! The Fallen Star Pendant and Hoop of Imprisonment are rather handy for me at this stage, and are also magic artifacts which I’m lacking, so I cannot sell them too.”

“The only choice left are these plants and the amassed magic crystals from before!”

Leylin was somewhat frustrated.

These items would at the most exchange for only a few of the resources he needed. His current situation was akin to pouring a cup of water on a burning cart of firewood.

Right now, he was reminiscing about the Dylan Gardens.

That was a secret plane left behind by a rank 4 Warlock. Just the harvest each year was worth a million magic crystals! With it, Leylin would not have to worry about the resources needed to advance to a rank 2 Warlock.

It was a pity, however, that the Dylan Gardens was destroyed by a self-destruct formation left by the great Magus Serholm.

“Perhaps, he did not wish for his inheritor to obtain too many items, for fear of losing the will for improvement!” Leylin surmised.

Chapter 150: Crystals

After hastily keeping the items on his bed, Leylin performed his routine meditation, then fell into a slumber.

It was a very deep sleep. When he finally woke up, it was already midday of the next day.

Leylin thought for a while, dressed up in a comfortable gown, and headed into the wilderness.

Along the path between the villas, Leylin followed the map he had obtained the day before, and walked towards the fourth level of the Nightless City.

“Good day sir!”

The red-headed old geezer, whom he met yesterday, was pruning his lawn. Upon seeing Leylin approach, he smiled and greeted Leylin.

“Hello!” Leylin felt a strong spiritual force propagating from within the old red headed geezer’s body. It did not feel like that of a budding Magus but that of someone who had halted in rank for a long time, and had accumulated a lot of essence.

Furthermore, looking at the traces of energy particles hovering around the old geezer, the A.I. Chip had estimated that he was at

least a semi-converted elemental Magus.

The old geezer's power level was similar to that of the clone from the Lilytell family that had been hunting Leylin.

“I wonder, what is his true battle prowess?”

The light Magi were better in the matters of theory and research. Leylin did not get the slightest feeling of similarity of a dark Magus from the old geezer. Obviously, he was a light Magus.

Being in a higher state does not necessarily mean that the fighting capabilities are high too. This was proved by the fact that despite having an elemental conversion of only 1%, Leylin managed to barely defeat a semi converted elemental Magus.

“My name is Crew. It has been a long time since any new neighbours have moved in!”

The old geezer smiled and placed his shears on the ground. From the looks of it, he was very excited to see Leylin.

“I am Leylin, and I have just arrived at Nightless City. It is a tranquil city and I love it here!”

Leylin bowed slightly as a sign of respect.

From the old geezer's body, Leylin felt a sense of peace. The old

geezer also had a heavy scent of books and scrolls, and had the temperament of a scholar

In the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, all of the instructors brought about an air of intractable chill. The acolytes were afraid of them.

“Haha...you made a good choice!”

Upon hearing Leylin’s words, the old geezer’s wrinkly face creased with laughter.

“Where are you headed?” The old geezer sat down on a stool in the gardens. “Would you like to drink some red tea with an old geezer?”

“No thanks, I would like to have a stroll in the city and take a look at the trading district!”

Leylin rejected the old geezer’s suggestion with a smile on his face and left the area.

“This is really a peaceful city, maybe I should stay here for awhile!”

Leylin wandered around the streets.

The third zone of the Nightless City was very different from the

first two zones, especially the Magi's quarters. All of the villas were widely spaced, and they were adorned with eye-catching symbols.

Besides, the third zone's city walls were constructed using meteorites.

The meteorites were not only visually attractive, but were also capable of absorbing loose energy and radiation.

According to estimations from the A.I. Chip, the city walls exceeded an amount of two million magic crystals to construct. It left Leylin speechless.

There were significantly less people in the third zone. Occasionally, official Magi and their attendants could be spotted.

Leylin even spotted a few bodies that were intertwined with the energy of vengeful spirits and fresh blood.

Obviously, Leylin was spotted by the others as well. It was easy for those of the same kind to spot each other.

However, due to the rules of the Nightless City, and perhaps for other reasons as well, Leylin and the other dark Magi only exchanged looks from the distance, and left their positions in haste.

Leylin reached the fourth zone of the city after passing through a heavily guarded gate.

Many different types of stores dotted the vicinity. Occasionally, Magi could be spotted entering and exiting the stores.

The Magi that passed through the area had energy levels of official Magi and above. Not a single acolyte was seen.

“From the looks of it, this is the trading district set up for official Magi!”

Leylin was very pleased. The light Magi region was the trade center of the south coast, and Nightless City was one of the biggest cities within it. Congregated in here was some of the best the south coast had to offer. With an endless amount of resources available, it would definitely satisfy his needs.

Leylin looked around at the various store signs as he walked along the path towards the center.

“Old Gelling’s medicine store!” “Cape of good hope refined gold goods!” “Clothes manufacturing shop” “Refined gemstones store” “Mythical creature trading store...”

Leylin was bewildered by the large variety of shops available.

However, he followed the information obtained yesterday, and made a beeline straight towards the fourth zone’s central plaza.

Smack dab in the middle of the district packed full of stores was a large open plaza. Eighteen pillars that were as thick as the human skull were erected around it.

Occasionally, there were Magi on the plaza using their hands to feel the pillars with their eyes shut. It was as if they were interacting with something.

Some of the Magi that looked directionless and lost gained a sense of purpose in their movements after interacting with the pillars. They hurried along their way out of the market or towards a certain shop.

“We have reached the trade plaza!”

Leylin let out a gasp, and a flash of expectation came over him.

Following which, he queued behind a red-robed, middle-aged man.

There were only a scant few Magi on the plaza, so Leylin’s turn came quickly.

Leylin took in a deep breath, and stood in front of the pillar, his palms pressing upon it.

Buzz Buzz!

The moment his palms felt the rough stones on the pillar, Leylin experienced an extremely ice-cold spiritual force creep from the pillar and bore into his forehead.

Leylin's skin slightly stretched, and a few streaks of dark rays passed by. He felt as if he had been suppressed while the spiritual force bore into him.

“Data transmission interface detected, awaiting permission to enter”

“Allow it!” Leylin commanded.

Following which, a large amount of scripts and diagrams were circulated into Leylin's mind like a message. The information converged into what seemed like a hefty book.

Leylin's spiritual force gingerly touched the book and flipped to the first page.

“Material types” “Finished goods types” “Knowledge types” “Potion types”...

What entered his vision first was a densely packed index catalogue. Leylin hesitated for a while, before opening the “Knowledge types” segment.

Bang!

A silver light flashed. Following which, a lot of sub-clauses appeared before Leylin's eyes.

“High level dwarf enchanting studies”

“Comprehensive details for flame runes”

“Introduction to crafting of medicines”

“Soul research date”

.....

Many different branches of high-level academic knowledge appeared before Leylin.

There were many branches of discipline which Leylin himself had never heard of before. The names appeared to be very strange to him.

“However, there was no data on high level meditation. There was also no information in regards to the advancement of a Magus. It looked like it was intentionally hidden...”

With a slight flash in his eyes, Leylin turned to the “Material types” section.

Blue-gold stone, bayern flower, essence of wilted tree, black rose, heart of light blue lizard. There were many materials, some of which he had never heard of before, and some of which even had depictions that were very realistic looking.

“Search—crystallised Darkness energy particles!”

Following which, the majority of the data disappeared, and only a few lines of information from the hefty book remained.

“Looking to buy egg of a Fire Ingesting Bird at a favourable price, can choose from the following for trade: I have wood spirit 200 grams, crystallised Darkness energy particles 100 grams, Firestone 800 grams, Rotten Cloud medicine, and various types of liquids...”

“Store sells the following: crystallised Darkness energy particles, dragon grass, ghastly sunflower...”

On the hefty book, only these two statements appeared. It looked pathetic.

“There is only such a minute amount, and one of them only accepts the egg of a Fire Ingesting Bird for trade!”

Leylin frowned.

In order to increase the elemental conversion rate, other than

relying on hard work, the A.I. Chip suggested that he could also ingest crystallised energy particles that suited his elemental affinity.

This sort of high energy concentration crystals were only formed in nature under very strict elemental conversion criteria.

Once a Magus ingested the crystals, he would be able to increase the rate of his elemental conversion.

Through this method, Leylin would be able to rapidly increase his elemental conversion rate, and fix his shortcomings.

However, these type of crystals were very valuable. Furthermore, the Darkness elemental ones were very rare, causing the whole database to only contain two lines of information in response to his query.

“Whatever. This is better than having to go search for the information myself.”

While Leylin was using his spiritual force to reply to the message selling the crystals, a small messaged appeared: Elm Street #231!

This was the address of the shop from earlier.

Leylin threw a high-grade magic crystal into the stone pillar’s interface.

A considerable fee was needed when information was obtained from the trading plaza. Leylin rolled his eyes at the fact that the profitable areas were dominated by the powers behind the Nightless City.

Upon analyzing the situation, Leylin found that he was not willing to part with another high grade magic crystal to obtain the contact information of the trader requesting the egg of fire ingesting bird.

After leaving the trade plaza, Leylin found the small shop written on the message in no time.

The tiny shop was rather inconveniently located in a small alley. If not for the definite address, Leylin would not have found it.

The shop was dimly lit and its floor was dusty.

The racks in the store were filled with transparent glass jars. Different types of organs and tissues were submerged in a faint yellow liquid within these glass jars. Leylin even saw a few that resembled a human embryo.

“What do you want?”

From the sales counter, a female witch wearing a tall pointed hat walked out. Her face was filled with fine wrinkles and her nose was hooked like an eagle’s talons.

“I was looking at the trading board. Are you selling crystallized Darkness particles?”

Leylin asked with anticipation.

“Whoa! Look what I found, a Magus that majors in the cultivation of Darkness energy particles...”

The old female Magus laughed out as fire green light appeared in her eyes.

Chapter 151: Absorption

“You reek of blood, young man.”

The old witch cried out in exaggeration.

“You are a dark Magus, am I right?”

“Is there anything wrong? I don’t know of any rule in Nightless City that states that you can’t sell to dark Magi.” Leylin’s brows furrowed.

“Hehehe... Don’t worry, I’m a dark Magus too, though that’s a matter from over 200 years ago. Ah, just remembering those times makes me feel nostalgic...”

The old witch chuckled, which sounded like an owl hooting.

“For you young people who want to take shortcuts, the price of crystallised Darkness energy particles is not something a newly advanced Magus can afford. I doubt you have that many magic crystals, so as a favour as your senior, I’d like to offer you another option...”

Leylin furrowed his eyebrows even more. “What option?”

“A trade! You should be aware that once we get to this level, all

ordinary resources mean nothing to us. Only fellow Magi on the same level as us have the supplies we require...”

“What do you need?” Leylin didn’t have a good feeling about this.

“One thousand! I need a thousand spirits brimming with energy! If you provide me with them, all of these Darkness crystals will belong to you.”

The old witch’s eyes shone with excitement.

“Are you out of your mind? If you want me to collect a thousand spirits within the light Magi domain, you might as well be telling me to commit suicide!”

Leylin replied indignantly.

Extracting spirits was a meticulous task, and in order to obtain the amount that the old witch desired, at least ten thousand people’s lives would be consumed.

If Leylin were to harvest such a gargantuan amount, he would definitely be on the death list of white Magi!

“I’m not asking you to harvest spirits here. You can do it in the dark Magi’s domain!” The old witch’s face was nonchalant.

“That’s much too far, and will consume too much time. Furthermore, I do not wish to incur the wrath of more dark Magi forces!”

Leylin immediately shook his head and rejected the old witch’s request. “Since you posted a notice at the trade centre, I imagine you still require some magic crystals. It’s not as if there aren’t any spirits sold in the Nightless City. At most, you’d have to spend more time to amass them...”

“Alright then. However, young man, I have to remind you that the price of the Darkness crystals is not to be underestimated!”

The old witch had an internal struggle for a while, before realising that her requirements were a little too much, while walking back behind the counter.

Ping Ping Pang Pang!

After rummaging through the drawers for quite a while, the old witch finally placed a conical glass bottle on the counter.

At the bottom of the glass bottle was a layer of semi-solid crystals. It let off a mysterious lustre as if wanting to suck in the souls of those peering at it.

“300 grams of crystallised Darkness energy particles. Every gram will cost 100 magic crystals!”

“Kiddo, I’ll still reiterate my earlier suggestion. As long as you bring me 1,000 spirits, these will all be yours!”

The old witch tried her best to tempt Leylin.

“No need for that!” Leylin shook his head. However, the given price did surpass what he could pay.

Most of his magic crystals were earned from selling potions that he had brewed. After the bloodbath in the academy, he also managed to earn a huge amount, obtaining many magic crystals and precious ingredients.

However, to offset the amount he spent yesterday, those resources were mostly diminished.

Leylin did not plan to be so foolhardy as to harvest 1,000 spirits just for the sake of this small amount.

Even amongst the dark Magi, if one were to massacre large amounts of humans and harvest their spirits, he or she would be seen as the vilest of existences.

Leylin did not wish to live the life of a street rat¹ in the south coast, receiving animosity from everyone.

“Can I use other ingredients to compensate for the remaining amount?” Leylin asked.

“Yes!” The old witch nodded. “However, I only accept ingredients pertaining to spirits. As for those kinds of items, I will only offer a 90% rate for them!”

“Spirits?”

Leylin suddenly understood that this old witch was a Magus who was most likely specialised in spirits. Right now, her experiments had reached a critical point, and she required large amounts of materials for her conjectures and theories.

Leylin did have plenty of precious ingredients on him, but many were still useful to him, and he did not plan on letting go of them anytime soon. Upon the realisation that this old witch was also researching spirits, Leylin’s eyes flashed as he came up with an idea.

“How about... Advanced information regarding spirits? Will you accept that?”

Leylin asked.

“Advanced information? Let me have a look first!” The old witch’s expression brightened.

Leylin chuckled, withdrew a pearl the size of a thumb, and handed it over.

This pearl was a special tool used to store memories. While conducting his research as an acolyte, Leylin had recorded some information regarding spirits and stored it within the pearl.

Although Leylin was only an acolyte at that time, with the help of the A.I. Chip, his research on spirits was extremely profound. It could even surpass the knowledge of his academy's professors.

Moreover, Leylin only intended to reveal some of the information that he had discovered in his earlier stages.

As for the experiments such as optimising the Blood Vengeance Potion and the bit of information that he had obtained from the Book of Giant Serpent, he was prepared to keep it for himself.

The old witch gave it a once over, "It seems to be research materials at an acolyte level. I won't reject..."

However, with the passing of time, her expression turned solemn, and she even seemed to be entranced.

"Such exquisite experimentations! Also, the unique perspective! How about the rest of the information! Hurry up and show them to me!" The old witch snarled, looking slightly deranged.

However, upon seeing this scene, Leylin smiled confidently.

"So then, we should be able to discuss and work out the price of this information..."

A dozen minutes later, Leylin left the old witch's shop smiling.

The glass bottle containing the Darkness crystals was nested safely within his robes.

He had somewhat underestimated the zealotry that the old witch had for spirit research. The information earlier had been sold for a price of 20000 magic crystals almost immediately.

After Leylin withdrew another 100 high-grade magic crystals, the Darkness crystals were immediately sold to Leylin.

Moreover, after looking through Leylin's experiment research, the old witch seemed to have a complete change in attitude. She became extremely affectionate towards Leylin and even invited him to collaborate in an experiment.

This was quite a sensitive matter, and Leylin eventually rejected after giving it some thought. However, he did leave his secret imprint with her. Although her craziness made Leylin rather reluctant to befriend her, it was undeniable that she had quite a few useful items. Moreover, Leylin had a plan that required a partner like her to carry out.

.....

“Magus Leylin, it's you again. How was your afternoon?”

Under the flickering lamps of the street, Leylin returned to his villa.

Along the way, he coincidentally met that red haired geezer, Crew.

This old geezer was resting on his couch with a contented look on his face. Beside him were several maids with voluptuous clothing, who fed him delicacies time to time.

“Does this old geezer have a fetish for being the target of voyeurism?”

Leylin was somewhat speechless regarding Crew’s nonchalance about seeking pleasure out in the open.

However, he still smiled on the surface. Resting against the fence, Leylin said, “It went okay. I managed to purchase some of the items that I yearned for...”

“Haha... After staying here for a long time, you will realise that Nightless City has everything you need!”

The old geezer chugged down the grape wine in his glass, before grabbing a maidservant beside him and smooching her out in the open.

As for the other maidservants, they chuckled, as if it was a common sight.

Although Leylin knew that after advancement, some Magi would give up on further improvement and turn lewd, engaging in wanton ways, it was still a first for Leylin to see such a sight. It had somehow widened his perspective. After exchanging several more sentences with Crew, Leylin returned to his villa.

Leylin laid on his bed upon returning to his bedroom, recollecting the day's events.

After obtaining the old witch's crystallines, Leylin saw that there was still some time to kill. At the same time, he contacted the Magus that wanted to trade the Darkness crystals for the egg of the Fire Ingesting Bird with wishful thoughts, wanting to purchase it off of him through other methods.

However, Leylin did not succeed, as the other party only wanted the egg of the Fire Ingesting Bird. Even though Leylin offered a 50% increase from the market price, it still did not move the seller.

Finally, Leylin could only reluctantly spend several hundred more magic crystals, and put out a notice at the trade centre saying that he wanted to purchase Darkness crystals, before returning to the villa.

“A.I. Chip! Show me my stats and simulate the best way to absorb the Darkness crystals!”

Leylin thought inwardly.

[Mission establishing, gathering Host's data, beginning model simulation!]

After receiving the command of its host, the A.I. Chip began to rapidly calculate, and rows of data began to flash past Leylin's eyes.

The next day, Leylin relaxed while strolling throughout the city, finding a restaurant to have a sumptuous feast before returning to his villa.

The basement of the villa had been remodeled, and a large spell formation had been carved into the surface of the floor.

Leylin placed the Darkness crystals that he had recently acquired at the centre of the formation.

“Based on the A.I. Chip's calculations, the crystals' absorption rate will achieve an efficiency of 94.7% when placed within this formation.”

Leylin murmured to himself, as he came to the centre of the formation.

“Activate!” He said the opening command in the ancient Byron language.

Buzz buzz!

The entire spell formation vibrated, emitting a bright light.

In the heart of the formation, the Darkness crystals began to melt. First, they shifted from a half-solid state to a liquid state and filled in a bizarre rune. Immediately after, a bright red light flashed, and the liquid within the rune vaporised into black smoke, which circled within the basement.

The black smoke converged, and seven indistinct snakes with red eyes emerged, twisting around Leylin's body.

Ice cold and slimy, the little snakes formed from the smoke resembled a real snake in every way, giving Leylin a bizarre sensation.

Leylin breathed in deeply.

Sssii!

Two tiny snakes were immediately sucked into his nose.

Leylin felt as if his body had expanded, and he felt tipsy as if he was drunk.

*

TL Note: Unanimous hostility from everyone.

Chapter 152: The Bloodline's Transition

The five remaining tiny snakes issued cries of terror while struggling to escape Leylin's reach.

Suddenly, Leylin opened his mouth and inhaled sharply.

All five tiny snakes were all swallowed inside his stomach.

Meanwhile, the spell formations on the ground emitted black lights, engulfing the entire basement.

Wrapped in darkness, Leylin had a feeling like he returned to his mother's womb— serene and comfortable.

Only the constant notifications from the A.I Chip could be heard.

[A large amount of essential substances are entering the Host's body, confirmed to be Dark energy particles, absorption in progress...] [Host absorption rate greatly enhanced under the effect of the Darkness rites, crystal utilisation increased!] [Absorption complete! Host's elemental essence conversion greatly increased, currently 35%.]

Di!

A crisp tone sounded in the centre of the formation. Following

which, the black light converged into the shadow of a figure at the centre.

“Huff...”

Leylin gradually opened his eyes, and a flash of black light streaked past his eyes.

“This feeling...”

Having the elemental essence conversion increase to 35% so quickly was a strange sensation. Leylin could clearly feel that in the surrounding void, tiny black particles of the Darkness element were hovering around like fireflies.

Although Leylin had a Darkness elemental aptitude, being able to sense the energy particles in the air this easily was still a first for him. It was a feeling of novelty. Moreover, Leylin could sense that it required less spiritual force than before to control the energy particles.

“Latent Fireball!”

Leylin quickly chanted the spell, and from the darkness of the basement, countless black fireballs flew out.

Flames gathered in Leylin’s hands and became five times larger in an instant.

Corrosive flames continuously formed and raised, and even the roof of the basement gradually turned red, seeming to be on the verge of melting.

“A.I. Chip. Calculate the current stats!”

Leylin muttered inwardly.

[Rank 1 Magic: Latent Fireball. Degree of attack: 40.5. Additional damage from elemental essence conversion: 10.5!]

“As expected! The might of the latent fireball has risen sharply compared to before, and the amount of spiritual energy and magic power needed has been decreased.”

Leylin’s lips quirked in a slight smile.

His elemental essence conversion had already reached 35%, which allowed him to have an increase in prowess when he cast Darkness spells. Moreover, as it was energy particles that were from his elemental affinity, the consumption of spiritual force and magic power was lowered too.

“If my elemental essence conversion reaches 100%, I wonder what kind of extent will it reach...”

There was an outward expression on Leylin’s eyes.

Right now, his elemental essence conversion was only at 35% and it had brought him this many benefits. If he was a fully converted elemental Magus, then he could rival the existences of those ancient elemental beasts!

Of course, Leylin was clear deep down that humans were, after all, not elemental creatures, so the possibility of 100% elemental essence conversion was minimal at best.

To some Magi, as long as they reached 80% elemental essence conversion, they could attempt to advance to a rank 2 Magus.

As for those with 90% elemental essence conversion and above, they were the geniuses that were groomed by powerful guilds.

“100% is an unreasonable goal. However, with so many good conditions that I possess, I must have at least a 90% elemental essence conversion before I advance to rank 2!”

The studier the foundations were built, the more benefits one could reap after advancement in the future. This logic had been long since comprehended by Leylin back when he was an acolyte.

“Crystallised energy particles! I need large amounts of crystallised Darkness energy particles!”

His eyes were blazing with a fiery passion.

After waiting for a few minutes, Leylin went to the spiral staircase in the basement.

“A.I. Chip! Check my current stats, and see if there are any residual effects or injuries on my body. Calculate the amount of time needed before I can use the energy particles again!”

A flash of blue light appeared in front of Leylin.

[Leylin Farlier, Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual force: 29.8, Magic power: 29 (magic power is in synchronisation with spiritual force). Status: Healthy]

Based on the stats that A.I. Chip had calculated, after using the crystals, not only had Leylin's elemental essence conversion rapidly increased to 35%, his spiritual force had also risen.

[Residual substances have appeared in Host's body, determined to be elemental impurities! Currently in the process of expelling impurities from the body. Estimated time needed: 4 Months, 21 Days!]

The results that the A.I. Chip gave left Leylin somewhat shocked.

Magi who used external resources to advance would often cause themselves some problems. He had known this since long ago. However, he didn't think that the damages would have been this much lesser than expected.

“This can’t be correct! According to the meditation technique and the Book of Giant Serpent, after using the crystals, the backlash will only be the invasion of negative energy and a temporary loss in ability to sense the energy particles in the surroundings?”

Leylin was somewhat puzzled. If using such crystals had such a good outcome, then the price should have been several times higher.

The reason for the circumstances that happened to him most likely stemmed from his own body.

“A.I. Chip, find out the reason why!”

Leylin could tell that this probably had to do with his Warlock bloodline. Ever since his body had taken in the ancient blood of the Giant Kemoyin Serpent, his body had been continuously merging with the blood, also transforming his physique.

The change in his body when he advanced into a Rank 1 Warlock had been minimal. There was also still a large amount of blood that was constantly merging with his body, which unknowingly gave him many benefits.

[Mission establishing, obtaining authorisation! Beginning microscopic analysis. Scanning in progress!]

The A.I. Chip quickly cast a light blue diagram in front of Leylin.

It was a diagram of a human's DNA helix structure.

The difference between him and regular humans was that on Leylin's diagram, there were many barbs on his helixes. These barbs vaguely formed the shape of a mysterious rune.

This rune was somewhat similar to the rune that Leylin saw while transplanting the bloodline. Furthermore, it seemed to expand continuously, as if wanted to cover the entire model of Leylin's DNA.

[Abnormality in genetic information found in Host's body. Endocrine secretion is different from normal humans. Cell activity increased, increasing effect of expelling poison!]

At the bottom of the diagram, the A.I. Chip came up with a conclusion.

From the A.I. Chip's conclusion, it could be seen that upon receiving the bloodline, Leylin's body was constantly getting stronger. His body's ability to expel poison had also exceeded most rank 1 Magi, to the point that it was able to dispel the residual impurities caused by the usage of the crystals.

[Beep! Based on analysis of the Host's DNA, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent's bloodline is getting stronger, and will soon undergo a transition. Estimated time: 1 Year, 09 Months.]

The A.I. Chip prompted Leylin with another frame.

“Bloodline transition?”

Leylin suddenly thought back to the records in the Book of Giant Serpent.

If a Warlock’s bloodline was extremely concentrated, and if the level of the bloodline exceeded that of the Warlock by a large margin, the power of the bloodline would remain stagnant within the Warlock’s body, and accumulate until it underwent a transition!

For every transition in the bloodline, the Warlock’s body would undergo a drastic change!

What Leylin had transplanted was the purified bloodline of the ancient creature, the Giant Kemoyin Serpent. If one were to quantify its level, it would be at least a rank 4 Morning Star Magus.

As for Leylin, he was only a rank 1 Magus as of now! The concentration of the bloodline was too high, so it could only be dormant within his body. After Leylin’s elemental essence conversion and spiritual force had reached a certain threshold, it would then enhance him with a deeper harmonization.

“It seems that the ancient creatures’ bloodlines are mysterious yet powerful, which far exceeds my expectations!”

Leylin who was walking up suddenly halted.

“There’s still 1 year and 9 months huh?”

The second transition would bring immense benefits to Leylin. The most obvious change would be the leap in power!

“If that is the case, a lot of my plans from before should now be modified!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed, “A.I. Chip, are there any methods to hasten the arrival of the second transition?”

[Mission established! Searching within the database!]

The A.I. Chip quickly began to compute. [Lacking in data, unable to proceed! Beginning simulation!] [Possible methods — 1: Using Bloodline Crystals. 2: Obtaining a spell formation that can strengthen the bloodline...]

That was also one of the benefits of the A.I. Chip being upgraded. When important data was missing, it could establish conjectures, and provide a case scenario with the highest rate of success to the Host.

“Weren’t these two items already extinct within the south coast years ago?”

Leylin was somewhat speechless, “Is my only option to wait this out?”

After walking to the top of the spiral staircase, Leylin opened a wooden door that had a metal hoop and came to the study room of the villa.

“It seems that I have to look for some servants and the like!”

Leylin sized up the empty villa.

There were multiple rooms here, as well as a professional kitchen and stable. By the looks of it, these had been prepared for a Magus’ servants.

After most Magi advanced, they would usually find themselves a few servants or followers, and some might even accept apprentices to service them.

It was a very rare situation for Magi who had advanced to still live alone, as Leylin did.

“I guess I should make changes to the original plan!”

Leylin looked around the villa. “It’s a good opportunity to stay here for a while and take care of matters such as getting servants.”

Originally, Leylin had been planning to undergo a series of expeditions to acquire resources for his advancement after settling down in the Nightless City.

However, from the looks of it, since he already knew that his strength would be greatly boosted in 2 years' time, he could afford to give it some time and wait it out.

For Magi, two years were not a very long period of time. As for Leylin, who had the bloodline of an ancient creature, his lifespan was higher than most Magi.

“Since I have decided to stay in Nightless City for a while, I should not be idling around. I have to create potions for sale and join other guilds to obtain protection and high-grade information. These can all be carried out at the same time!”

Thoughts ran through Leylin's mind as he suddenly remembered his neighbour, the red-haired geezer.

This neighbour of his would definitely be helpful in this area.

Chapter 153: Seeking Entry

“Come on! I specially got someone to bring this black tea all the way from the eastern islands!”

The simplistically carved wooden teacup was giving off steam, which vaporised into the air, bringing about the fragrance of brewed tea.

With a hospitable smile on his face, the red-haired Crew brought a cup of black tea to Leylin.

Sometime after Leylin finished consuming the crystals and made the decision to be a resident of the Nightless City, he bought a gift and paid the Magus Crew a visit.

“Come, this is a honey cake made from the honey of Pomelo Bees! The taste is delicious!”

After seeing Leylin drink the red tea, old Crew directed one of his maidservants to serve a plate of extremely sweet mini cake.

The maidservants wore extremely exposing uniforms, only covering the few crucial areas. Most of her glossy skin was out in the open, which looked extremely alluring.

“If you like them, I can gift you a few!”

Crew laughed absent-mindedly.

“Please don’t tease me!” Leylin shook his head as he forced a smile. “Haven’t I already told you the purpose of this visit?”

At the mention of getting down to business, Crew’s expression became stern.

He waved his hands, and the maidservants in the surroundings bowed deeply, before quickly taking their leave. They were obviously trained and did not make any sound as they retreated.

“Do you wish to join an organisation in Nightless City?”

Crew’s expression was solemn.

“Yes, for the sake of high-grade information and some precious ingredients needed in experiments...”

What Leylin said was the truth. Obviously, he could brew his own potions and earn magic crystals, leading a very comfortable life in the Nightless City.

However, even if Nightless City was known as a trade centre, some precious items were still under strict regulations.

For example, only a few official Magi were able to access high-grade information, as well as some information that was related to

breaking through bottlenecks.

These materials were heavily regulated, whether it was by magisteriums and guilds operating behind the scenes of the Nightless City, or through strict control and distribution on a periodical basis. As for wandering Magi like Leylin, there were no chances of obtaining them on the streets.

Perhaps a couple things could be found in black markets, but the amount would definitely be extremely little, and the prices extremely farfetched.

If that was the case, it was better to join a guild, even obtaining privileges at times.

“Well... the magisteriums in Nightless City are quite regulated, and...”

Crew may have omitted some information, but Leylin was well aware of what he was implying.

While Magi organisations and families may have had the tradition of recruiting wandering Magi or those who were on the run, there was a crucial requirement said Magi must not have created trouble that might bring harm to the organisation backing them.

For a Magus like Leylin, whose history was unknown, Magi organisations would do a complete investigation into his

background, and then judge whether or not he was permitted to join their group.

“My full name is Leylin Farlier. I don’t have anything to hide, as you’ll find if you look into my history.”

Leylin didn’t have any plans on hiding anything about his background.

He was from the Chernobyl Islands, and was a noble’s son. All of his experiences from when he was a child up till now had been recorded, and he was definitely not afraid of being investigated.

Furthermore, the only enemy that he had was the powerful Lilytell family. Unfortunately, the Lilytell family was a typical dark Magi family.

They were the arch enemy of the light Magi, who were in control of Nightless City. Countless dark Magi had lost their lives within the light Magi’s domain.

Leylin had always been sticking to his role as an acolyte. There was no evidence that indicated he was insane or sick in the mind, such as having massacred regular humans at will.

As a result, his identity would not affect his entry into an organisation in Nightless City.

“There were some disputes over interests before. Due to some

personal conflicts and interests, I killed the heir of a family, and am now on their wanted list...”

Leylin briefly explained his past.

After hearing Leylin’s recount, Crew’s face turned even gentler.

“Be at ease. I personally do not have any animosity towards dark Magi. Moreover, you have already abandoned their camp, have you not?”

As if afraid that Leylin was worried, Crew even explained himself.

“We of Nightless City will still welcome Magi like you, so be at ease!”

Crew sipped the black tea from the appealing wooden cup, before he slowly said, “So then, there are many guilds in the Nightless City; which one are you planning to join?”

“It’s precisely because I don’t know much that I’m here to seek your guidance!”

An embarrassed expression surfaced upon Leylin’s face.

“En! Let me think, where should I begin?”

Crew racked his brains, and after thinking for a while, he said, “There are many guilds in the Nightless City. Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, Mercifura Academy, Four Seasons Garden, Hand of Femke, Human Faced Lion’s Eye...”

“These are all guilds that are more powerful, monopolising the trade behind the Nightless City. On the surface, there are a few other small organisations. Those ones aren’t that strong, some even having only a semi-converted elemental Magus as their backer. If at any time they were to die, the organisation would naturally be dismissed...”

“They are only guilds in name, and their shares of resources are extremely few, to the point of almost being negligible. Some are even just based on friendships and the collaboration of experiments. After some time, groups like that will naturally be formed. These types of groups have no backing at all, so don’t even think of joining them!”

Crew advised Leylin with a good heart.

“As for the application, you only have to go to the communal centre, and request an application. Once you pass the test, you will be granted entry!”

“Of course, the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower might have some special welfare and restrictions...”

Leylin did not pay Crew a visit just to find out superficial information such as this. He also wanted to understand more

about the inner workings of the large guilds in Nightless City. This information could only be known by older Magi who had been a resident of Nightless City for a long time.

Of course, Crew knew of this, so he leaked some important information further on in their discussion, allowing Leylin to grasp a better understanding of the various guilds.

Several hours later, Leylin bade Crew farewell with a huge grin on his face, and he returned to the villa.

In the study room, a white ball formed from magic was floating in mid-air, giving off vivid rays of light that were not too harsh on the eyes, and brightening up the entire study as if it were day.

Leylin sat on an armchair, holding a stiff goose feather quill pen, and seemingly deep in thought.

On the surface of the piece of parchment spread out over the table, there were several handwritten lines written in black ink.

At the very top of the list was Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Mercifura Academy, followed by Four Seasons Garden, and the tier below was the Hand of Femke, Human Faced Lion's Eye, Aide Society, and the like.

These were obviously the names of the true powers behind Nightless City.

“Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Mercifura Academy are both schools and have the harshest requirements for Magi who wish to enter. They even demand that Magi hand over a part of their spirit, and make an unbreakable vow! Even though their treatment is the best, I won’t go there.”

From the very start, Leylin crossed off Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Mercifura Academy from the piece of parchment.

“As for the Hand of Femke and the Human Faced Lion’s Eye, they are both organisations formed by and for half-humans. The ratio of pure humans to half-humans is quite low, and there are rumours that they are discriminated against, so I’m not going there either!”

Once again, Leylin struck off two organisations from the list with a wave off his black goose feather quill pen.

“As for Aide Society, they are more partial towards using positive energy magic. It’s an organisation made up of light Magi who are known for their healing abilities, which is definitely not my cup of tea...”

Leylin struck off the characters that represented Aide Society.

There was just one lonely option left on the parchment.

“Four Seasons Garden. I guess this is my only choice...”

Leylin had a bitter smile on his face. From the information that he had received from Crew, Leylin had a certain level of understanding regarding the organisations backing Nightless City.

However, many of them did not meet his requirements.

He was thinking of entering an organisation as an external lecturer or a visitor, but most organisations required their recruits to pledge their absolute loyalty to them.

There were some with more lax prerequisites, but unfortunately, their specialisation did not coincide with Leylin's interests, so he could not learn much from them.

No matter how he saw it, Four Seasons Garden was his only option.

Four Seasons Garden was a large scale Magi organisation. There were rumours that it was founded by a formidable Potioneering organization, and even now, Four Seasons Garden was still well known for its cultivation of vegetation, as well as Potioneering.

This coincided with what Leylin was studying.

The requirements to enter this organisation were also laxer, and those who had talent in Potioneering received excellent treatment.

Leylin had already achieved a certain level of attainment in Potioneering, and with the help of the A.I. Chip, he was almost as

good as his mentor, Kroft. If he revealed just a small portion of his talent, it would definitely be enough to gain the respect of the Magi at Four Seasons Garden.

Since Four Seasons Garden was a Magi organisation renowned for Potioneering, it was sure to have many formulas, even including those ancient Potioneering formulas.

In addition, the large quantities of documents and books that they possessed would definitely be extremely helpful for the A.I. Chip's database.

As Leylin pondered, a trace of anticipation flashed within his eyes.

The next day, Leylin donned leather armour, with a cross blade in a silver scabbard, and went to the second level of the communal centre in the Nightless City.

The level of activity in the construction resembling a gargantuan palm was very high; every now and then, magicians walked in and out like scurrying ants.

This time, Leylin entered through the passage that resembled the thumb.

Most of the Magi here were rank 1, with cold auras that deterred others from getting into close proximity with them.

“These are most likely wandering Magi coming here to seek an opportunity!”

Leylin inadvertently scanned his surroundings and saw several strangely dressed Magi. Just based on the energy waves radiating from them, Leylin felt a sense of danger. With just one look at them, one could tell that they were no pushovers.

There was a large hall at the end of the passage, and straight ahead of it, there were several counters that were separated by glass windows. Within those counters, several magicians seemed to be scribbling on their papers.

Chapter 154: Four Seasons Garden

As there were only a few official Magi, empty counters were readily available.

There were a few magicians sitting on the big benches around the hall as if waiting for something or someone.

Leylin looked around and arrived in the front of an empty counter.

“Hello!” The young maiden behind the counter seemed to emit the energy waves of a level 3 acolyte. Upon seeing Leylin, she greeted him cheerfully, as her face brightened up with a smile.

“I wish to join Four Seasons Garden, hence I’m here to apply!” Leylin directly told her his purpose for arriving.

“Nightless City welcomes you as our newest member!” After listening to Leylin’s request, the young maiden’s smiling expression was more pronounced. “Please show me your ring!”

Leylin removed the silver ring from his finger and handed it over to her.

The young maiden reached out for the ring, placed it onto an instrument from behind the counter, and then respectfully handed the ring back to Leylin.

“Please fill out this form, and we will send a reply to you as soon as possible!” Subsequently, the young maiden handed a sheepskin parchment form to Leylin.

Leylin glanced at the form.

The questions on the form were simple. They asked for a name, aptitude, elemental affinity, address, and so on. On the back of the form was a note, allowing magicians to fill in other information they deemed as important.

Leylin quickly filled out the form and handed it back to the maiden.

The maiden accepted the form from Leylin and pressed on the crystal ball in front of her as if consulting something. Soon after, her face reflected her joy.

“Lord Leylin! A few examiners from Four Seasons Garden will be here this afternoon to conduct a test. You’ll only have to wait for a bit...”

“Oh? It seems like lady luck is shining on me!”

Leylin smiled as he nodded his head; he had finally found out what those magicians in the hall were waiting for.

According to Crew, after wandering magicians handed over their application forms, they would have to wait for the examiners of the various guilds, who would classify their abilities through an assessment.

The timing was not fixed. It could be as short as a few days, or as long as a few months.

This time, however, Leylin had managed to catch the right timing.

“Thank you!”

Leylin thanked the girl behind the glass window, and proceeded to a corner of the hall devoid of others, and closed his eyes as he waited.

“Hello Mister, would you like some lunch?”

A somewhat timid female voice sounded near Leylin.

Leylin opened his eyes and realised that a maid pushing a white dining cart had come up to him.

On the dining cart, there were a few silver plates on which a temperature-maintaining spell had been cast. Even though they were covered, the food’s aroma still drifted over to Leylin’s nose.

“What kinds of dishes are there? Do they require magic crystals for payment?” Leylin asked with curiosity.

It was evident that it was the first time the maid had seen an easygoing magician like Leylin; her reaction was sluggish. “There is roasted lamb thigh, calf loin... As for dessert, there’s an assorted fruit salad! All of these are complimentary...”

Leylin nodded his head. It seemed that official Magi were treated pretty well in the Nightless City.

This was common sense. It didn’t matter where it was; a person who had mastered a certain degree of power or ability would always be valued.

“Give me one portion of the roasted lamb thigh, as well as a portion of the fruit salad!”

The lobby was very large, and there were even customised compartment rooms that one could choose to stay in. Other than meals, it seemed that there were other special offers.

Leylin personally witnessed a huge magician pulling a maid into one of the compartment rooms. Following which, sounds of repressed moans could be heard.

“L... Lord, if you want...” The maid servicing Leylin was also quite a beauty and combined with her slightly shy demeanour, caused one to feel lusty, and desire to ravage her.

“There is no need. I’ll just eat outside!”

Leylin shook his head. Inside the hall were some round tables and long benches, similar to the layout of a coffee place from his past life, where one could stay to dine.

Leylin considered whether he had his sperms acting as a brain. With the assessment commencing this afternoon, how could that magician still think of something like this? Wasn’t he afraid that his current actions would adversely affect his state of mind and ability to produce results during the assessment?

Upon hearing Leylin’s response, the maid released a sigh of relief. Soon afterwards, whether it was because she felt like she had been relieved of a huge burden, or she just felt empty, Leylin had made his way into her heart.

While the maid looked at Leylin, who exuded elegance and charisma, she momentarily felt an indescribable feeling.

Leylin, on the other hand, did not notice the maid’s feelings.

He was currently skilfully controlling the knife and fork in his hands, sending the lamb thigh meat into his mouth. Every move he made had an indescribable feeling of elegance and grace to it.

In his previous life, Leylin was someone who paid extra attention to etiquette, and as the heir to an aristocrat, the previous Leylin

had also undergone etiquette lessons over a long period of time.

As a result, the original Leylin was very noble-like, and when coupled with the charisma he had gained from the Kemoyin bloodline, plenty of young female magicians favoured him.

Just by walking along the streets of Nightless City, the present Leylin would spot several young ladies stealing glances at him.

There were even a few voluptuous female magicians that directly requested a date with Leylin, causing him to be dumbfounded.

After having a pretty tasty lunch, Leylin waited for a while before entering the hall, in which a large commotion was occurring amongst the magicians.

“Are they here?”

Leylin watched attentively as two Magi, who wore white robes imprinted with four unknown flower designs, walked to the center of the hall.

Next to them were two other Magi wrapped in white cloaks, revealing nothing but two pairs of green eyes.

“Today is the day of assessment for Four Seasons Garden and Hand of Femke. Those who have submitted their application form and would like to join Hand of Femke, please come with me!”

One of the Magi with green eyes spoke first in a hoarse voice as if his vocal cords had been damaged.

At the moment that he began to speak, the surrounding air started to faintly vibrate. Circles of aquamarine light started to loom around his body.

“This is a semi-converted elemental Magus?!” Leylin blinked.

This type of energy wave was similar to the one that he had seen from the clone of the elder of the Lilytell Family.

After the cloaked figure revealed his strength as a semi-converted elemental Magus, the whole hall turned silent.

Magi only respected and answered to power and strength, and this was even truer among wandering magicians and dark Magi.

Furthermore, under normal circumstances, wandering magicians and wanted Magi had no fixed ways of breaking through their bottlenecks due to the lack of means to obtain advanced academic knowledge, potions, and the like.

As a result, wandering magicians were generally of lower levels. Even amongst the wandering official Magi, it was extremely rare to find a semi-converted elemental Magus.

While the large Magi organizations of Nightless City could easily dispatch two semi-converted elemental Magi as examiners, this kind of power was something that smaller organizations could only hope to achieve.

After the cloaked figure finished his speech, he left without delay, and headed to a nearby side tunnel, while his companion followed behind without a word.

Upon hearing the words of the green eyed magician, many magicians in the hall stood up and followed closely behind him.

Leylin could sense a mixture of energies emanating from these magicians. Some even had fur on their faces, which was an obvious trait of being half beast.

“It’s a pity, They’re just a tribe of sub-human Magi and not Warlocks!”

Leylin now anxiously wished to be able to find another Warlock organisation.

He simply had too many unanswered questions regarding this ancient branch of Magi, the Warlock. With just the Book of Giant Serpents, he wouldn’t be able to go far upon the path of his bloodline.

However, unfortunately, warlocks seemed to be extinct within the South Coast. Leylin had travelled this far and had only been

able to find a little girl in the Inlan Dukedom, who had a very slight connection with warlocks.

“Hello, everyone! I am Wade, a Magus from the Four Seasons Garden! This person next to me is Tyne!”

In comparison to the lack of politeness received from the men from Hand of Femke, the two main examiners from Four Seasons Garden were friendlier.

Wade, the middle-aged magician with golden hair, had taken the initiative and introduced himself. Tyne, who was next to him, was silent and taciturn, and sometimes even absent-minded.

However, from their bodies, one could feel that they possessed the strong energy waves of a semi-converted elemental Magus, discouraging wandering Magi from causing trouble.

“Now! Those who want to be assessed for Four Seasons Garden, please come with me!”

The golden-haired Wade turned towards the side road in the opposite direction that the Magi from the Hand of Femke had taken. Tyne followed closely behind.

Leylin and the rest of the five or six magicians exchanged glances and started taking strides to catch up.

The side road was long, and the path was made of an unusual and

bizarre material. The floor had no traces of cracks, and it was smooth and glossy. Leylin could even see his own reflection on the ground.

After walking for about ten minutes, Leylin and the rest arrived at a hall that was slightly smaller than the one from before.

In the middle of the hall, there were several experiment tables and equipment for Potioneering.

Upon seeing this, Leylin instantly knew what the Four Seasons Garden was going to evaluate them on.

“As we all know, our Four Seasons Garden is famous for our specialisation in Potioneering. Therefore, we have some requirements in the area of Potioneering for new members. The test is very simple. Within the established time, successfully brew a bottle of Jeffrey’s Purifying Potion!”

Wade spoke softly, but it seemed like some sort of magic technique was being used, and his voice was clearly heard by every magician’s ears.

“Raw materials are arranged on the experiment tables; we have prepared three portions of raw materials for each of you. In other words, you’ll only have two chances to fail!”

“This kind of request....”

Leylin squinted for a bit. Jeffrey's Purifying Potion was a type of middle-grade medicine, which, even amongst potions of a similar tier, was famous for being extremely difficult to brew.

Brewing this potion with only three portions of ingredients and within a specified time limit was something only those who were at a level comparable to Potion masters such as Kroft would be able to pass.

“Tsk....”

Sure enough, after the listing the requirements, Leylin heard distinct hisses from the magicians around him.

“In recent years, the larger powers within Nightless City have made their recruitment criteria increasingly stringent...”

At this time, a sound of complaint travelled to Leylin's ears.

Chapter 155: Jeffrey's Purifying Potion

“Silence!”

Seeing the chaotic scene, Tyne, who had stayed quiet all this while, suddenly spoke.

In a split second, tremendous spiritual power swept through the hall like a storm.

“This is the assessment to enter my Four Seasons Garden. If you have no wish to participate, the door's right there. Please feel free to leave.”

Tyne pointed to the small door at the side.

It instantly became unnaturally quiet.

“Good! Are there none who want to withdraw? In that case, let the examinations begin!” Wade glanced at the Magi under him, nodded, and a golden hourglass appeared in the middle of the room. Grain by grain, the sand started to fall.

Seeing that it was time to begin, the magicians quickly ran to their workbenches and started to handle the materials they had.

Leylin found himself a space in the corner, and since there were many workbenches within the hall, nobody was going to fight him for this place. At the moment, he was still relaxed enough to be

judging the performance of the acolytes.

Since these Magi had all chosen Four Seasons Garden, it was natural that they had achieved a certain level of attainment in Potioneering. All of the magicians began to operate the equipment on the workbench in a skilled manner, motions quick and methodological.

“From the looks of it, I’ll have to reveal a bit of my skills...”

Leylin grinned and got to work...

“Hmm?”

Tyne, who had been sweeping his gaze over the applicants, suddenly made a sound of surprise.

“What happened?” Wade asked his friend in a hushed tone.

“That Magus! His brewing methods are extremely... perfect!” Tyne came up with the word after a long pause.

“Look! Even though the other magicians are skilled, they tend to make mistakes. However, there isn’t the slightest bit of a lapse in his hands or in his movements. Everything is so stable as if it’s a textbook example but in real life.”

“Hmm... You’re right! If you hadn’t brought it up, I would have

missed it!”

Wade watched the young man in the corner who was engrossed in handling a green plant.

The young man was currently using his right hand to heat up the beaker, the fingers on his left hand constantly emitting yellow flames. When combined together, the colour became a striking red.

“This is the Flame Combining Method unique to the dark Magi domain, and is a high level technique used in Potioneering. To think that he’s so proficient in this method...”

Wade wore an expression of admiration on his face. “It looks like we’ve found ourselves a promising seedling. Let me see what his name is...”

Wade immediately went through the stack of application forms and quickly found the young man’s name on the last piece of parchment.

“So he’s called Leylin? He comes from the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in the Poolfield Kingdom, and has offended the local Lilytell family!”

“If that’s all there is, it seems like we’re going to be welcoming another comrade soon!”

Tyne's usually emotionless face twisted in a smile.

For the magicians in the light Magi domain, they were uncaring of the fact that Leylin had offended those in the dark Magi region. After all, these two areas were at odds with each other in the first place.

What they were most afraid of was if Leylin had offended any of the local large-scale Magi organisations. That was the most troublesome.

At times, in order to maintain the guise of unity and solidarity, they had no choice but to reject talented Magi who were on the light Magi organisations' wanted lists.

The magicians were focusing on completing their own potions, and seemed not to have heard the two Magi, who were engrossed in conversation.

All of a sudden, a Magus dressed in a black cloak made a sound. His hand trembled, and the chemical within the test tube that was already transparent instantly became cloudy.

“Bastard! You're looking to die!”

The black-cloaked Magus roared, countless black rays gathering in his hands as he dashed towards a blonde female Magus at another side.

“Stop right there!” Wade bellowed, his body shimmering with light. A rune nearby the experiment tables shone, trapping the Magus within the area.

“My lord, she...” he protested.

“I didn’t see her doing anything, I only saw you trying to attack a fellow Magus participating in the assessment!” Wade snorted.

“If this happens again, you’ll lose the right to participate.”

The black-robed Magus seemed extremely dissatisfied as he clenched his fist. After tarrying for several minutes, he then dispelled the radiation of energy waves in anger.

“I am going to kill you!”

He glared viciously at the blonde Magus. Afterwards, he picked up another set of ingredients and began his brewing again.

“This is... An attack on the sly?”

Leylin’s hands did not stop moving yet his emotions began to surge.

Just then, the A.I. Chip’s scan detected a tiny trace of an extremely covert spiritual force from the female blonde Magus that had attacked the black robed Magus.

Potioneering was a highly delicate process, and any tiny slip up could cause the whole brewing process to fail.

The black robed Magus had been interrupted at a crucial moment, and the potion he was brewing was naturally destroyed in an instant.

Although a spiritual attack was slight, a semi-converted elemental Magus would definitely be able to sense it.

However, these two examiners prevented the black-robed Magus from seeking revenge.

“Could it be that the test allows one to strike covertly, but it cannot cross a certain margin nor be too obvious?”

Leylin surmised.

With this said, the difficulty of the test had increased again. Leylin was stunned by the harshness and reality of this test from the Four Seasons Garden.

“However, on the other hand, the stricter the test is, the greater the benefits obtained later on!”

Right now, he was fuelled by a fervent desire.

Bang! Bang!

The commotion from just now seemed to have caused some sort of chain reaction, and in a short moment, another two Magi slipped up.

There was a cold glint in Leylin's eyes.

Using the A.I. Chip, he could distinctly feel that there were two minute waves of spiritual force aimed towards him.

Their target was the Potion in his hand that was close to completion!

“A two pronged attack?”

Leylin laughed. To talk about the minute control of the spiritual force, Leylin who had the A.I. Chip to help him would not be afraid of anyone!

“A.I. Chip, begin secondary task and destroy the spiritual forces together with me!”

Leylin commanded inwardly. Very soon, a layer of spiritual force that had a trace of Darkness aura met the two similar spiritual force head on.

Ka-Cha! Ka-Cha!

At the point of contact between the spiritual forces. Leylin's spiritual force had rapidly overlapped, turning into the form of a small snake. Its tiny strength continued to stack, and after several rounds, its might momentarily multiplied by several times!

Boom!

The two opposing spiritual forces were destroyed the moment they came in contact with Leylin's spiritual force.

Not only that, Leylin's spiritual force still followed the pathway of the two spiritual forces and began a fierce counterattack.

“Urgh!”

“Argh!”

Two sudden cries were sounded in the hall suddenly.

The potions of the black robed Magus and female blonde Magus immediately turned to ashes. Furthermore, two streams of blood flowed down from their noses.

“Interesting! Earlier, I felt that the acting of the black robed Magus was somewhat poor, but now, have they been colluding?”

Leylin smirked. His elemental essence conversion had been

significantly boosted. Also, with the help of the A.I. Chip, these two were unaware, and had actually taken a small hit from him.

They most likely had to recuperate for a period of time before fully recovering from the spiritual force attack from earlier.

“My Lord! I forfeit!” The black-cloaked man glanced at Leylin in fright, and promptly lowered his head, afraid to look him in the eye any longer.

“Me too!” The blonde Magus yelled.

“Permitted!” Tyne answered.

The two Magi quickly gave Tyne a bow, and darted out of the hall.

Unexpectedly, neither of them had any complaints or glared at anyone.

“At least these two know their place!”

Leylin thought nothing of their behaviour.

Magicians respected power. In the earlier exchange, he could tell that the two Magi’s elemental essence conversions were not higher than 10%, so they most likely had only just advanced.

They posed no threat to the current Leylin.

It seemed they were well aware of this fact, and quickly withdrew from the assessment, even being afraid that Leylin would pursue the matter.

“Did you see that? What an interesting performance!”

Wade grinned as he spoke to Tyne.

“Yes, his elemental essence conversion is of a rather high level. His ability to manipulate spiritual force is also amazing!”

Tyne nodded, his expression stern.

“And I was still worried that he was a spy from some organisation! I’m afraid nobody would be willing to use someone like him as a spy!”

“So this is your conclusion?” Wade blinked. This was the first time Tyne had such a good impression of somebody.

“No! This is just my hypothesis!” Tyne’s usually expressionless face suddenly had a mischievous smile.

“You!”

As Tyne's colleague, Wade naturally knew that his counterpart's frosty indifference was just an act. In fact, Tyne had a mischievous mindset.

As for Wade, who looked more normal between the two, he often had to take the blame for Tyne's behaviour.

“The Jeffrey's Purifying Potion! I've completed it!”

At this moment, Leylin indicated his completion by waving his hands.

This voice was extremely abrupt in the originally silent hall. In a moment, many gazes from magicians glanced at Leylin.

Firmly held in Leylin's hand was a test-tube with a milky white substance.

Wade came in front of Leylin, and carefully took the potion from him. He then began to scribble on a form.

“Very well! You can leave now. Ten days later, come to the recruitment area at the communal centre, and await for your results!”

Wade gave Leylin an extremely warm smile.

“Many thanks!”

Leylin smiled and bowed before leaving from a side door.

He understood that the test had been successfully passed. As long as there were no problems when they reexamined his current status, the Four Seasons Garden would never deny his entry.

Outside of the communal area were the wide streets of Zone 2 in Nightless City. The bustling activity on the streets continued, as people continued to pass by.

Anyone who had registered and provided their paperwork were allowed to stay in Zone 2, so Leylin was even able to see some regular humans here.

Chapter 156: Pass

Regular humans who lived in the domain of light Magi had better lives than those in the dark Magi domain.

Furthermore, the revered magicians even allowed them to obtain resident rights in Zone 2 as long as they continuously worked hard for it.

However, from what Leylin saw, it was only a different form of management.

Regular humans were treated at the same level as wild grasses in the dark Magi domain, and they did not receive management very often. The only thing was that they would be harvested in times of need.

As for the light Magi, they treated these humans as pieces of property; hence, they could afford to invest huge amounts of time and effort to manage them in order to reap greater benefits.

Even in the most open minded domain of the light Magi, magicians always had a position far above regular humans. Furthermore, this gap in status surpassed the gap between regular humans and nobles.

Leylin saw many situations in which regular humans, even those that seemed to be nobility, respectfully moved aside and gave a deep bow when they saw an acolyte.

Leylin paid no mind to these situations, however. The test today was rather taxing, and he was prepared to enjoy a hearty feast, then proceed to Crew's house to inquire about some matters.

The old geezer was very talkative, and Leylin wasn't planning on asking him anything confidential, so he was naturally willing to entertain Leylin.

Crash!

“Ah!”

Suddenly, a little girl in a white dress, who was chasing something like a rubber ball, bumped into Leylin's leg.

Rather than Leylin, who stayed in the same spot, the little girl fell backwards onto the ground.

She opened her eyes wide, and when she saw Leylin in his leather armour, she promptly began to cry in fear.

The congested street instantly became quiet, and regular people quickly backed away. Even a few acolytes yelped, “official Magus,” and phrases along those lines, and bowed while drawing back.

“My lord! Please forgive my daughter for unwittingly offending you!”

At the moment, a slightly plump noble prostrated himself in front of Leylin. He had cold sweat dripping down his quivering body.

In the Nightless City, the authority of the official Magi were extremely high. Even if they were to casually kill several humans, they would, at most, only be fined a set amount of magic crystals.

If Leylin's mood wasn't good, he could just kill these two people here, and they wouldn't be able to do anything but accept their fate.

The plump noble kowtowed as he pulled the little girl to kneel as well. "Quickly, seek forgiveness from the Lord!"

This atmosphere that seemed like a befalling calamity had also influenced the little girl. She held back her sobs and blankly stared on.

"It's alright!"

Leylin picked up the rubber ball on the roadside and handed it to the little girl. He even ruffled her hair with his right hand.

"It's no big deal! No need to worry!"

"Thank you, Lord!" "Thank you, Lord!"

With a feeling of a renewed life, the fatty's words were choked back. Even the little girl that he had brought along seemed to heave a sigh of relief.

“Do not be this impudent in the future anymore!”

Leylin nonchalantly lectured the fatty before leaving the scene in large strides, as the revered gazes of the passerby stared on.

“Do not be this disobedient in future anymore. Fortunately, this time, it was a kind magician. If it wasn't...”

The fatty wiped off the sweat on his forehead as he scolded the girl.

As for the white-robed girl, she looked at the direction Leylin headed towards with admiration.

.....

Nine days later, in a spacious room.

An old Magus with a head of white hair and gilded spectacles was looking at the pieces of information he was holding in his hand.

Within a transparent crystal ball, lines of text appeared.

“Leylin Farlier! From the Chernobyl Islands. Entered Abyssal Bone Forest Academy in the year 20987 of the Saint Yuan Calendar!” Next to these words, there was also a picture of a boy who was around thirteen or fourteen years old, and very similar in appearance to the current Leylin.

On another crystal ball nearby, there was a detailed record of Leylin’s experiences in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. As long as the information was made available to the public, it was all written there. There was even an article regarding the matter of how he had offended the Lilytell family.

“Hm! For the sake of a couple remnants? Seems reasonable!”

The old Magus nodded.

“Look, should we ask him to hand over the research materials he obtained from the ruins?” A Magus with a third eye on his forehead said.

“No, all official Magi have their own secrets. We need to learn to be lenient and tolerant, or else all of the magicians in the organisation would end up only acting for their personal benefits, leading to the segregation of groups!

There were several Magi who had journeyed throughout the south coast and managed to break through. If Four Seasons Garden demanded Leylin hand over his research, it would definitely draw the ire of other Magi, which would definitely provide no benefits

for them.

“However, based on Wade’s information, that Magus called Leylin had a slightly different aura than regular Magi. He might have broken through with some ancient methods...”

The Three-Eyed Magus was somewhat unresigned.

“Those alternative paths that a Magus might take may not have the advantages that you think they might...”

The old Magus looked at Three-Eyes beside him, and could not help but remind him.

“Time is the best judge. In the long history of competition, several tens of thousands of years have already passed. Branded Swordsmen, Elemental Bards, and Divine Warriors have all become extinct with the passage of time. Only we, who are the most traditional of magicians, have been preserved. Does this not explain everything?”

The old Magus’ eyes shone with wisdom.

“For some subclasses, although they might have favorable conditions when they advance, most of their routes on the path of advancement become blocked. It’s not even close to us, who can see continuous progress with constant cultivation in meditation techniques.

“Moreover, one must believe in time and the power of influencing through good will! Learn to embrace them!”

The old Magus smiled with confidence.

“We should not treat him as an enemy, but as a friend. After some time, he will naturally sense our good will. Moreover, the bountiful reserves of our Four Seasons Garden will definitely contain something that he needs!”

The old Magus merely adopted a soft approach instead of a hard one. Even with such an approach, it did not mean that he had given up on obtaining the information.

“Other than the Lilytell Family, is the Magus called Leylin really not a criminal wanted by anyone else?”

The old Magus asked again.

“I’ve checked multiple times, Mentor!” Wade bowed, “After Leylin went to the south coast, he usually stayed within the compounds of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy to study. He had little contact with other powers, and nine days ago, he...”

Next, Wade gave a brief summary of how Leylin let go of the father and daughter a few days ago.

“Look, he’s still on the side of the light!”

The old Magus smiled as he spoke to the three-eyed Magus.

“Hmph! It’s just for show!” The three-eyed Magus made a sound of contempt.

“We always look at their actions, and not their heart!” the old Magus said a proverb.

“Even if it’s a show, it also shows his willingness to enter a white Magus’ faction! That’s a lot better than those unrepentant dark Magi!”

“In that case, do you mean...?”

Three-Eyes bowed slightly.

“Tell the Potioneering team that we have found them someone with potential...”

.....

Naturally, Leylin would not know of such events. However, he more or less grasped the general situation.

With the strength of the Four Seasons Garden, it was very likely that all of his experiments from a young age until now would be displayed in front of a table that would be vetting him!

Furthermore, they would most likely infer that he had killed Bosain for the inheritance and was now on the run.

However, he was not worried at all.

The great Magus Serholm had utterly destroyed the Dylan Gardens. Since the dead party could not verify anything, they would at most reckon that he had obtained some subclass Magus information, and could have only advanced to an official Magus with some luck, so his future progress would be extremely limited.

Moreover, he was now an official Magus. Other guilds would definitely have official Magi who advanced under similar circumstances, and if they were to try to get to the truth, they would not be able to gain the trust of these Magi who had advanced in special scenarios. At the very end, they were still forces of the light Magi, so no matter how they thought inwardly, they had to show a good reputation on the outside.

As long as Leylin was able to hide the meditation technique of the great Magus Serholm and the A.I. Chip's purification of bloodlines, he was not afraid of letting them find out about other things.

Just as he expected, the moment he reached the reception area, he could see that Wade, who he had previously met, was already there waiting for him.

"Nice to meet you, Magus Leylin!" Wade smiled as he bowed towards Leylin.

“Congratulations on passing the test. From here on, you are a member of the Four Seasons Garden!” Wade gave a passionate smile.

“I am also honoured to enter such a great organisation as the Four Seasons Garden!”

Leylin had a look of excitement on his face.

“There are still a few contracts and procedures we need to go through regarding your entry. Please follow me!”

Wade walked in front and led the way, bring Leylin out of Nightless City.

Seeing the look of doubt on Leylin’s face, Wade explained, “Even though Four Seasons Garden has a few laboratories and a reception area in Zone 5, our headquarters is in the outskirts of Nightless City.”

“I see!” Leylin nodded, following Wade to a region near the gates to the city.

In front of Leylin was a large square, and in the middle, there were several wooden crosses, to which creatures of all shapes and sizes were tied.

“This is one of the Four Seasons Garden’s contacts, from which you can choose a specialized mount!”

Wade pointed at a giant magical creature that had just landed from the air.

“Although you can rent them, I suggest that you buy one for your personal use as transportation!”

Wade walked to a small wooden hut beside the plaza and greeted the person inside through the window.

“Madre, give me two Dragon Crown Nighthawks, as I wish to go to the headquarters!”

“I got it, I got it. You told me already!” The man behind the window impatiently answered, and tossed out two green metal sheets.

Chapter 157: Reynold

“Let’s go!” Wade called towards the distracted Leylin.

“What, do you like these guys?”

Wade pointed at a creature in front of Leylin that looked like an elephant, but had a layer of white feathers on its body that appealed to Leylin.

“I’m very interested in these kinds of strange creatures!”

Leylin gave a slight smile while he made a decision. He would come here often and look around, and if he was lucky enough, there might even be a few creatures with ancient bloodlines!

“Come on!”

Wade brought Leylin to where two gigantic Dragon Crown Nighthawks were.

These huge birds that resembled eagles had steely black feathers covering their bodies and their necks were dyed red. On their head, there was a beautiful protruding bone in the shape of a crown.

Wade unlocked the bronze collar on the Dragon Crown Nighthawks’ necks and tossed one of the green metal sheets Leylin.

“This is the key to controlling them. Come, let us leave!”

Leylin climbed on one of the Nighthawks' backs in curiosity. On its back was the leather saddle of a mount. It seemed to be manufactured for the comfort of the riders.

Leylin sat on the saddle and willed a trace of his spiritual force to enter the green metal sheet.

The moment his spiritual energy touched the metal sheet, Leylin could feel his mind instantly connecting with the Nighthawk.

The Nighthawk's mind was very simple, and it was only able to receive commands such as fly, drop, increase speed, turn, and so on. Its intelligence was similar to that of a child of around seven or eight years of age.

[Dragon Crown Nighthawk. Strength: 5.2, Agility: 7.6, Vitality: 4.9, Special abilities: None.]

The stats given by the A.I. Chip were simple. From the looks of it, this type of Dragon Crown Nighthawk was only suitable as a means of transportation.

“Let's go!”

The large Nighthawk spread its wings, and in doing so, swept up

a dust tornado.

Following two cries of the Nighthawks, Leylin and Wade made themselves comfortable on their backs as they flew into the sky.

Whoosh

The strong air pressure made Leylin feel as if he were in the middle of a hurricane.

“Hehe! Leylin, how does it feel?”

Wade, who was on the Nighthawk beside Leylin, spoke up.

Leylin’s eyes closed in a contented manner as he enjoyed the scenery zooming past him on both sides, as well as the blue sky and white clouds that seemed to be in close proximity.

For official Magi, whose bodies were much more resilient than the regular human beings, this sort of pressure was akin to a slight breeze.

“It’s not bad!”

“Haha... Back then, I had regretted that I had not memorised a flying type spell. However, ever since I got my precious, I did not have those thoughts anymore. Perhaps one day, you can have a look at it! I swear that you will be enchanted by it...”

Leylin chatted with Wade along the way as he observed the flying path of the Dragon Crown Nighthawk.

Ever since he had left the Nightless City, the Dragon Crown Nighthawk had been flying eastward.

With the passing of time, the air in the atmosphere turned chillier.

Finally, a snow covered mountain range appeared in front of Leylin. The Dragon Crown Nighthawk let out an excited growl, and began to soar upwards.

On a patch of ground covered with white snow, the Dragon Crown Nighthawks that carried Wade and Leylin landed.

“Welcome to the Four Seasons Garden’s headquarters!”

Wade led Leylin into a tall passageway.

Two acolytes that seemed to have been waiting for them began to receive the Dragon Crown Nighthawk, and brought them to their stables, before beginning to scrub and feed them.

The passageway was extremely winding, and the walls were covered with pure white snow. On the inside, however, a warm wind was circulating.

From the various forks on the passageway, Leylin could see several Magi with acolytes walking past them. They carried notebooks and seemed to be in a hurry.

After half an hour and several checkpoints, they finally reached their destination.

“We’re here, this is my mentor’s room, Lord Reynold’s office!”

Wade pushed open a big black metal door while explaining to Leylin.

It was extremely spacious behind the door, and there were many green vines creeping in the surroundings.

The ancient tree vines were twisted and intertwined, taking the shape of the table and chairs. Also, where some knots were, several beautiful white flowers were blooming, emitting a sweet fragrance.

Behind the desk made of black vines, an old, white-haired Magus wearing gilded spectacles smiled at Leylin.

“Welcome!”

“An honour to meet you, my Lord!” The energy waves radiating off the old man’s body completely surpassed that of a Rank 1

Magus. Leylin had only come across this sort of undulation from the chairman and a couple of other Magi at the bloodbath in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

It was obvious that this old man was at least a rank 2 Magus.

“Don’t hold back. The Four Seasons Garden was created by the great Potions Master, Amesandenisa, for the sake of exchanging research and potion formulas. Our objective is to create equality and freedom!”

The white-haired man laughed with a kind demeanor.

“Being able to enter the Four Seasons Garden is an honour, my lord!”

Leylin bowed once more.

“Now then, are you prepared to sign the contract?” Reynold asked.

“I hope you don’t mind, but could I see the contents of the contract?” Leylin asked.

“Right! Don’t mind me, I’ve already gotten so old that I have forgotten these things...” The old man chuckled and pointed at a piece of parchment on the table.

Leylin picked it up and looked through the conditions.

Just as he had expected, the specifications were quite lax.

It was stated that Leylin had to swear not to harm the Four Season Garden's interests and that he had to complete a specific number of missions per year. In exchange, the Four Seasons Garden would provide him with information and resources. In all other areas, the conditions were lax and did not restrain him in any way. There wasn't even any mention of what would happen to Magi who left the organisation.

"It is just as Crew mentioned. Due to some history, the Four Seasons Garden's pact is quite loose!"

Of course, Leylin was aware that this was just for him to gain access to some of the Four Season Garden's resources. He was unable to gain further access to the more important items.

That was only possible from the start if the contract was much more strict, to the point that he had to leave a part of his spirit here.

However, Leylin wanted to enter a large organisation by taking on the role of a guest professor or special guest. It was for his convenience to obtain high-grade information and resources in the future. He had planned to travel across the world in the future and search for various Magi remnants and did not want to just be tied down in one place.

Leylin took extra care to examine the margins of the parchment paper, which was extremely clean, with no additional conditions or runes inscribed onto them.

Some ancient characters were extremely difficult to notice and even similar to runes. Leylin had heard that many magicians loved to use such devious traps in order to trick others.

Although the Four Seasons Garden might not stoop down to such a level, Leylin still felt that he had to be more careful for his own sake.

“A.I. Chip! Scan! Check if there are any pitfalls or unknown constraints in the contract!”

Leylin commanded silently.

[Mission establishing, beginning detailed scan!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Currently, after several upgrades, the A.I. Chip was still able to hide all traces of its existence before a rank 2 Magus.

[Beep! Scan complete! No strange or concealed restraints on the contract!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“These conditions are very good, I have no reasons to refuse them!”

The A.I. Chip's indication could only be heard by Leylin. From Wade's point of view, Leylin had only given it a cursory glance, before readily agreeing.

“Very well!” Reynold chanted an incantation.

Buzz buzz!

There was an undulation in the air, and immediately, a mysterious eye appeared in mid-air.

This eye was completely black, save for the scarlet light within the pupil.

“Trial's Eye!” Leylin said inwardly.

This eye was extremely similar to the clone he had summoned, but it was at least ten times bigger than what he had seen before!

It was obvious that when summoned by a rank 2 Magus, the Trial's Eye's might would be multiplied.

If it was said that the Trial's Eye that Leylin had summoned when he was an acolyte had less than a billionth of the strength of its true body, this vertical eye that Reynold had summoned would most likely have the strength of a millionth of the Trial's Eye's real body.

The Trial's Eye floated in mid-air quietly, and Leylin seemed to even see a trace of intelligence within its pupils.

“This is different from a phantom that has no consciousness when summoned by an acolyte. The might of the Trial's Eye, when summoned by an official Magus, is even stronger. Moreover, it is intelligent and can think on its own, so it is able to judge the contract fairly between both parties!

Reynold explained to Leylin.

That was to say, if this Trial's Eye had appeared in the past, Leylin's past ploy in deceiving the vengeful spirit Roman with a word game would have been exposed, and he would have suffered the punishment of the Trial's Eye.

“I declare that the ceremony starts now!”

Reynold announced in a low voice, and the moment he spoke, the Trial's Eye trembled. Leylin could tell that the atmosphere in the air had changed and became denser.

“Witnessed by the mighty and impartial Trial's Eye! Leylin, do you agree to sign this agreement?” Reynold asked, his voice clear and powerful in the ancient Byron language.

“I agree!” Leylin answered his speech also in the ancient Byron language.

The moment the words left his mouth, he could feel his spirit tremble, seeming to repeat the words that he had just said.

The phantom of the Trial's Eye shook, seeming to be the witness to this contract.

“So then, I, Reynold, hereby declare the contract as established!” Reynold called out.

Boom!

The contract on the parchment paper in Reynold's hands suddenly combusted, turning into ashes as they entered the phantom.

Xiu Xiu!

The Trial's Eye exploded and turned into two black rays, entering Leylin and Reynold's bodies at a speed that the naked eye could not follow.

“Congratulations. From today onwards, you are now an extrinsic Magus! Not only can you obtain a portion of precious resources every month, you are also allowed access to most of our labs and the library!”

Reynold said to Leylin.

Chapter 158: Decarte

“Good, now let’s speak about your allocations...”

Reynold told Leylin.

“According to Wade, you have an amazing talent and ability in Potioneering. We cannot allow such a talent to be neglected. After some consideration, we are prepared to arrange you into the Potioneering team. Do you have any objections?”

“I couldn’t wish for anything better!” Leylin smiled.

Since there were Potioneering teams, there should be other alchemy teams, battle teams and more. Leylin only wanted to enter the organisation to get a salary and gather some resources. He definitely would not be willing to endanger his life fighting battles for them.

As for being able to join the Potioneering team, the requirements should be related to Potioneering, which was something he specialised in.

It seemed that intentionally having exposed his innate skill and strength from before had helped him in his promotion.

“Alright! Wade, bring Leylin to the Decarte of the Potioneering team, and then come back. In regards to the Moonflower Flame

incident, I think there are better ways to deal with it..... ”

“Yes, teacher!” Wade gave a bow, and took Leylin away with him.

“What do you think? My tutor is a good person, right?”

Wade asked Leylin with a sense of pride and boasting. Being in front of Leylin, who was now a fellow comrade, he was visibly much more relaxed.

“He is a wise and amiable senior!” This time, Leylin naturally would not sing a different tune.

“Ha ha..... everyone says that. Come, let me bring you to the Potioneering team. Decarte, over there, is overly conservative, but he still attentively cultivates truly talented young magicians....”

Wade divulged a quite a bit of information without much thought.

At the end of the turn, a magician in black robes emerged.

This magician exuded a twisted and chilling murderous aura with faint howls from vengeful spirits, causing Leylin to feel sensitive.

The most eye-catching thing about this magician was his vertical third eye in the middle of his forehead.

The vertical eye was always open, and its pupil was pitch-black. It seemed to lack feeling or sensation, causing one to not help but shiver.

“Wade, this new Magus doesn’t seem to be very polite.....”

The three-eyed Magus said coldly. An icy spiritual force immediately pounced onto Leylin.

“Hmmm?!”

Leylin was caught by surprise, and immediately gathered his spiritual force to defend.

Pop! Fine bubbles of air in the atmosphere began to pop.

The moment their spiritual forces met, Leylin could feel that his opponent’s spiritual force contained a strong aura of fresh blood. This kind of odor was so dense that Leylin nearly suffocated as he could not dispel it.

And besides, his opponent’s level of elemental essence conversion far surpassed that of semi-converted elemental Magi. Leylin’s spiritual force collapsed under his opponent’s attack.

As if a sledgehammer had smashed into Leylin’s chest, he stumbled two steps back, and his face turned white.

The three-eyed magician looked bewilderedly at Leylin, “Your spiritual force is not bad, but it’s a pity that it was still insufficient...”

Subsequently, he did not take another look at Leylin, and proceeded past them.

It seemed that the Magus was trying to show off and demonstrate his prowess.

“Are you okay?” Wade looked a little worried for Leylin.

“No problem, my spiritual force is just a little shaken up. A few days of rest is all I need to get better!” Leylin looked in the direction of three-eyed Magus as he left, “Who is he?”

“He is Lord Caesar, a Magus personally nurtured by the Four Seasons Garden, and with valiant fighting strength. He is in charge of the hunting team, and is the role as our deputy commander!”

Wade looked at Leylin with a bitter smile on his lips.

“Lord Caesar believes that foreign magicians will only damage the Four Seasons Garden’s unity, and believes that recruiting new magicians should be banned...”

As if afraid that Leylin would worry, he added on, “Of course, my teacher, Lord Reynold, does not agree with his point of view. Furthermore, my teacher was one of the pioneers of this

organisation. At the present, the Four Seasons Garden's higher authorities are still in favour of recruiting new magicians..."

"Head of the hunting team....."

Leylin glared in the direction of Lord Caesar, and a ray of light flashed from his eyes.

"A.I. Chip, estimate the opponent's strength!"

[Based on the spiritual force emitted by the opponent, target's strength estimated: Rank 1 Magus with peak strength, elemental essence conversion above 80%...]

"With this kind of strength, it bears a resemblance to the elder from the Lilytell Family. By the looks of it, if I was paired to battle against him, I'd have little chance of winning..."

Tons of complicated ideas were swirling around in Leylin's mind.

"Okay, let me bring you to the Potioneering team..."

Wade quickly changed the topic, and Leylin followed behind Wade without comment.

Along the way, Wade tried his best to speak about other topics, hoping Leylin would forget about the unhappiness from earlier on. Even though they both knew it was impossible, Leylin still acted as

if he was listening attentively.

“After becoming a part of our team, you can live here permanently in a house for free. However, life here is very monotonous; we just conduct experiments after experiments. Hence, many magicians like to own housing in the Nightless City, so that they can have a vacation over there from time to time...”

Wade responsibly told Leylin what to expect. After crossing several forks in the road, they came to a stone bridge that spanned mid-air across an overhanging cliff, which led to a botanic garden.

The floor here was made of metal, and the surroundings were a tidy and clean shade of white, causing the misconception of returning to his laboratory from his past life.

On both sides of the road, there was also transparent glass.

Behind the glass were petri dishes, in which various sorts of exotic plants had been planted.

Walking Earth Grass, Giant Food Flowers, Face Vines... With just a casual sweep of his eyes, Leylin found countless precious plants. Some were even important ingredients for cultivating spiritual force, but of course, they were only effective for acolytes.

Any newly recruited rank 1 Magus would be astonished at all these things, but Leylin had seen the great Magus Serholm's Dylan Gardens that he had personally cultivated, and all these plants

were nothing compared to what he had seen before.

However, a shocked expression still flashed across his face.

“We’ve arrived. This is the Potioneering headquarters!”

Wade brought Leylin through the garden, and arrived in front of two huge stone statues that resembled monsters.

“Password!” The statue started to speak.

“Tell Decarte that I’ve brought someone here for him! And also, don’t make jokes to amuse yourself! If it happens again, I’ll tell the teachers to change all guarding systems in this facility! You should know that I have that power!”

Wade bellowed at the statue.

As if he knew that Wade wasn’t joking, the enormous stone statue monster chuckled before getting out of the way.

“These two statues seem to have been manufactured defectively. The creator mistakenly stuffed a couple of mischievous spirits into the statues. Just ignore them!”

Wade brought Leylin through, then told Leylin.

“Mischievous spirits?” Leylin stared blankly, while immediately recalling a written account from an illustrated handbook.

“Those that resemble goblins, and tease people for their own pleasure... Those spirits? This is really... it deserves our sympathy!”

“To be honest, I also have some sympathy for myself!”

While Leylin was speaking, a tunnel behind the stone statue was opened, revealing what seemed like a structure of a ginormous auditorium.

There was a huge gold chandelier suspended from the ceiling of the auditorium. There were plenty of giant candles on it, illuminating the auditorium.

In the auditorium, there were numerous unusually long white birch tables with all sorts of delicacies spread on top. There were only a few magicians, and they were sitting far away from each other. Only a few of them who seemed to have a better relationship huddled together to chat.

The voice from earlier on belonged to a middle-aged magician on the platform.

“Here, let me introduce to you, this is Lord Decarte, the head of the Potioneering team. He is a Magus at the peak of Rank 1, and on the verge of breaking through to Rank 2!”

Wade smiled as he saluted Decarte, then said to Leylin.

“Lord Decarte!”

Leylin quickly bowed.

“Hehe, I know you! I’ve seen the clip of you brewing the medicine; your technique was really admirable! From now on, we’ll be colleagues! Everyone, please give a toast to our newest comrade!”

Decarte snapped his fingers, and two cups filled with mead flew in front of him and Leylin.

“Cheers!” All of the magicians present raised their cups.

“Thanks!” Leylin took the cup. The mead’s alcohol content was not high, and it tasted like sweet liquor. Its taste was pleasant.

“Well, since I’ve sent Leylin here, I will be taking my leave!”

Wade drank his wine in one shot, “My dear teacher is still waiting!”

“Since you still have something to attend to, I shall not delay you any further. Leylin, come! Sit here!”

While Decarte was speaking, the acolytes beside him immediately arranged a new long table. Countless kinds of delicacies and fruits were continuously brought to the table, quickly piling up onto the table.

Leylin slightly bowed and arrived at his own seat.

Only at this time did he have the chance to size up Decarte, the formidable Potioneering team leader.

Decarte wore white robes, onto which green plant designs had been embroidered.

His face's shape was common, and on his forehead was a dark green headband, making him look extremely indolent.

Around Leylin, there were also a couple of servants, who were dressed glamorously. From the aura they gave off, they were level 3 acolytes from noble families.

He took a look around. Solely in this auditorium, there were at least thirty official Magi, and countless acolytes.

This was only a Potioneering team. In terms of overall strength, it had already surpassed the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy.

The banquet carried on for about an hour and a half. After the

majority of the magicians had finished eating, the acolytes brought beverages of different colours. The atmosphere in the auditorium slowly cozied up, resembling the tea parties Leylin had attended in his past life.

“Alright. This meal and welcoming ceremony are over. Let us discuss the allocation of work now...”

Decarte spoke on the platform, his voice resonating to the ears of every magician present.

Upon hearing this, the magicians put down their cups.

“Elmo! How’s the progress of the Giant Dragon Strength Potion?”

A voluptuous female magician stood up, “I am about 70% done with deducing the formula, and am currently stuck at some crucial points. I am applying for the third centrifuge and supplies from the fifth garden...”

“Good. After the banquet ends, submit an application form!” Decarte nodded in agreement.

Chapter 159: Exchange

“How about you, Martin? How is the brewing of the monthly 300 doses of Frost Potions?”

Martin was a short old man, and when his name was called, he seemed uneasy as he stood up.

“Si... Sir, you know it. I am having a shortage of manpower... Also, recently, the apparatuses have...”

“I don’t care what your reasons are, Martin. Isn’t this the third time already?” Decarte’s face darkened.

“Please... Please forgive me, Sir!” Martin’s face reddened.

“It’s timely that you’re lacking in manpower. Leylin will first be assigned to your team, and I will provide you with another 3 synthesizing machines. If you are still unable to complete your task by next month, your allowance for this year will be greatly reduced!”

“Yes, Sir!” Martin could not help but to wipe the sweat off of his face.

Leylin, who heard his name being called, got up.

Next, Decarte called on several other magicians, inquired about their progress, and made the necessary arrangements.

After the banquet, Leylin took the initiative to slow his footsteps and walk alongside Martin.

“Having you come to my team... I’m sorry...” Martin apologised.

“It’s not a problem!”

In any team, all newbies had to suffer at the beginning, and Leylin was well aware of this fact.

“Alright, let’s move on. I’ll bring you to the lab and your room. There’s also some stuff that you’ll need to know.”

Even though Martin looked quite inept, he was enthusiastically guiding Leylin through the registration processes.

“Take it. They’re the keys to your room, as well as your identity token!”

The old geezer Martin brought Leylin to a house that was constructed of black stones. Also, he handed over an old bronze key and an identity token to Leylin.

The ancient key was modelled in an old fashioned way. There were even some characters inscribed on it.

As for the identity token, it was made of a translucent metal, with Leylin's name and other information carved onto it.

“Just with this token, you are able to go to the organisation's resource point and obtain a portion of precious ingredients, as well as some advanced information.”

Martin explained to Leylin with patience.

“This token is extremely important, and if you lose, it there will be quite a hassle. You must definitely protect it well...”

Seeing that Leylin nodded his head to express his understanding, Martin brought Leylin to view the experiment labs and rooms.

“The experiment lab is a common shared area, and its number is dkh-328! The apparatus in it is rather decent, and enough for an official Magus. Furthermore, if you have any other special requests, you can apply for it through the organisation. As long as you have enough contribution points, the organisation will do their best to fulfill your requests....”

Leylin had heard Martin mention contribution points before. They were a method that the Four Seasons Garden used to gauge the merits of individual Magi. After finishing the appointed amount of work required, an official Magus could obtain contribution points.

These points could not only raise the status of the team but could also be used to exchange for essential resources and knowledge.

From what Leylin could tell, this was a form of currency in the Four Seasons Garden.

“Speaking of contribution points, since you have only just entered, I’m sure you don’t have enough. How about it? Do you want to accept one or two acolytes? These kinds of assignments give the most contribution points.”

Martin suggested helpfully.

“Actually, I don’t have any plans on teaching anyone anytime soon!”

Leylin smiled and refused Martin’s request.

“However, how does the academy function to protect a member’s family?”

Leylin briefly stated the issue of him offending the Lilytell Family to Martin.

Under the insurance of safety and personal benefits, Leylin would not mind leaving a lifeline for the previous Leylin’s Farlier family

After all, he was still the eldest son and heir to this family in name.

Also, if the opportunity presented itself, Leylin wished to make up for the fact that he had borrowed the body of this family's child.

“Oh, don't worry about it!”

Martin listened to what he said and shook his head.

“Our Four Seasons Garden is a lot more powerful than the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. As long as we get in contact with them, the Farlier family in the Chernobyl Islands will definitely be taken good care of! Furthermore, based on the contract that you've signed with us, before it's certain that you're dead, the Lilytell family will definitely not be able to hurt your family of regular humans.”

“There's such a rule?”

Leylin was a little curious. No matter that world he was in, it was acknowledged that harming one's family was a very good way causing one to seek revenge, much less in the Magus world, where the regard of law was lacking.

“Is this... the fear of revenge?” Leylin guessed.

“Exactly. You're fast!”

Martin looked pleased with Leylin. “An official Magus that has nothing to tie him down is the scariest. Especially the fact that the Lilytell Family’s members are not all magicians. There are definitely acolytes and normal human beings amongst them...”

Leylin understood that this was a mutual fear of each other.

Before his death was confirmed, as long as the Lilytell Family dared to strike at the Farlier Family, it would definitely incur the wrath and revenge of Leylin.

Also, with the strength of an official Magus, slaughtering those humans and acolytes would be as easy as eating rice and drinking water.

Even if the Lilytell Family was rather established, they would definitely not be able to handle such a loss.

Hence, the Farlier Family would completely be safe.

“What’s more, you’ve joined us!” Martin’s expression was one of pride, and perhaps conceit.

“The Four Seasons Garden’s might is not something that the likes of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy can even begin to compare to. After hearing that you joined our side, they might have even thought of withdrawing their order for your capture!”

“I don’t really care about that!”

Leylin thought about Bosain, who he had killed. This acolyte of nobility seemed to be the sole grandson of the elder of the Lilytell Family.

In addition, they had also dispatched a rank 1 Magus to kill him, who had ended up dying by Leylin’s hand.

This enmity could not be so easily resolved.

“I’ve heard that the competition to be the next head of the Lilytell Family has reached the most crucial point. That elder is also known for being headstrong, and will not tolerate my existence. Otherwise, his image and reputation will be ruined...”

On the contrary, as Leylin thought of this, a look of anticipation appeared in his eyes.

Right now his strength was rapidly increasing. Moreover, once he underwent his second transition of his bloodline, his strength would definitely be boosted by a significant amount. At that time, it would not be a matter of whether the enemy would let Leylin leave, but whether Leylin would let them go.

.....

Four months later.

Leylin wore a loose white robe, with patterns of green plants embroidered on the sleeves and collar.

This was the uniform that official Magi in the Four Seasons Garden wore.

He was presently passing through the side roads in the mountain of the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters.

After walking through a tunnel full of little plant people, he arrived at an ancient square.

The square seemed to be constructed in the heart of the mountain and was very large. The ceiling was made of solid rock, and an innumerable amount of everlasting light spells had been added to the wall, brightening up the entire room.

This was the place in the Four Seasons Garden where he could exchange contribution points for resources.

Here, whether it was an acolyte or Magus, one could use contribution points and gain the materials and information that they wanted.

In addition, as an official Magi, Leylin was able to gain his monthly allocation for finishing his monthly tasks.

Many magicians who wished to join the Four Seasons Garden were attracted by this temptation, which was second only to having a large backer supporting them.

Leylin specifically walked towards to counter that handled the redemption of contribution points for official Magi.

The staff member in here was actually an official Magus as well. This official Magus was a female, with ocean blue hair that softly rested on her shoulders. On the sides of her lips, there were traces of gills.

“Hello, may I ask what you require?” The female Magus asked using the common language of the south coast, her voice extremely gentle and pleasing to the ears.

“This feeling...” Leylin was instead alarmed, “It’s extremely similar to the time when I was brewing the Azure Potion, where the voices of mermaids singing were heard...”

“It seems that this woman has a trace of the mermaids’ bloodline...”

Leylin’s expression on the surface was indifferent, as he looked at the woman and handed over his token. “I am here to retrieve some ingredients; is there a catalogue for them?”

“This is the catalogue of the items that you are currently able to exchange for!” The female Magus swept her eyes over Leylin’s

token and seemed surprised as she looked at Leylin. After that, she pretended that it was not a big deal, and handed over a catalogue to him.

Leylin looked at the list of items on the catalogue in detail.

This list was extremely long. Not only were there many resources that were precious even in the Nightless City, there were also many pieces high-grade information, and the latest results of experiments.

Furthermore, Leylin even saw some spiritual force potions that were meant for an official Magus' consumption. However, the contribution points required were so high that Leylin could only long for them.

“Sky Flower Welk Fruit, Dwarf Frost Runes, Elemental Crystals!”

Leylin's fingers stopped when they traced the words of 'elemental crystals' on the catalogue. His previous backlash from consuming them had now disappeared, so he could once again obtain more crystallised Darkness energy particles to raise his elemental essence conversion.

Leylin fervently looked through the entry of the elemental crystals, and finally, at the end of the list of the names of energy particles, he found the name that he was searching for.

“Crystallised Darkness energy particles: able to effectively raise

the elemental essence conversion of a Magus. Also has major residual effects. Use at your own risk! Available: 5850g. 1g = 1 contribution point. Limit: Regular team members can only buy a maximum of 50g per month!”

“This price?”

Leylin frowned.

Based on this method of calculation, he could purchase 50g of elemental crystals at the most, which would deplete his contribution points by about half.

He had used up 300 grams of crystals, which raised his elemental essence conversion to 35%. With another 50g, at the very most, he would be able to raise it to 40%, which just wouldn't be enough!

Chapter 160: Four Seasons Secret Plane

“Why is the price of these crystals so expensive?”

Leylin could not help but blurt out, “Also, there’s a limit to the quantity that I can purchase?”

From the looks of it, with such a method for calculating the price, elemental crystals were one of the most expensive items in the catalogue. Their prices were only second to that of a spiritual force potion.

Leylin had stayed in the Four Seasons Garden for four months and had been allocated 10 contribution points per month. This meant that even if Leylin stayed idle, he would be able to get ten contribution points per month from the Four Seasons Garden. Furthermore, he had joined Martin’s squad, and every time he completed a mission, he would receive a fixed amount of contribution points.

However, even after adding all of these up, it was actually still not enough to buy many items.

“Although the backlash of the elemental crystals is great, it is undeniable that it can boost the strength of a Magus. Naturally, it is an item that is highly sought after.”

The female Magus seemed to have heard these questions countless of times, so she did not hesitate with her reply.

“Give me 50 grams of elemental crystals, and on top of that, add these two pieces of high-grade information!”

Leylin paused and thought, before pointing to the catalogue and saying to the female Magus.

He knew that he had made a mistake; the Four Seasons Garden’s monthly allocation of resources could not be stacked up, but was instead fixed for every month.

That was to say, Leylin could obtain up to 50 grams of elemental crystals per month, but he was not able to wait and receive several months’ worth of allocations at the same time.

Moreover, even if he knew beforehand that the monthly allocations could not be accumulated, he, who had just joined, did not have that many contribution points allocated to him in the first place.

“A total of 80 contribution points!”

The female Magus took Leylin’s badge and waved it above a black machine. Bright red lights flashed.

Following that, she then retrieved the items that Leylin had requested from behind the counter.

“Thank you!”

Leylin stuff the items in his robes and left the plaza with a heavy heart.

“Leylin! Leylin!”

A short magus, with a height of merely one meter and a skull like a gnome, hurriedly ran to Leylin.

“You’re just in time. Follow me, Martin was just looking for you!”

From what Leylin knew about this short Magus, he had also been temporarily assigned to Martin’s group. The two of them had accomplished a significant amount of missions together and had a decent relationship with each other.

“Is anything wrong?”

Leylin was a little curious.

As the leader, Martin would usually lead and plan the task. In other areas, however, Martin had little presence.

“It seems like this is related to this month’s task!” Leylin said. The short Magus revealed a delightful smile.

“Ever since Leylin joined Team 3, our rate of success has been steadily increasing, allowing Martin to gain favour with Lord Decarte! In addition, since our group has been performing exceedingly well, Decarte has started assigning us other more challenging tasks with higher quality rewards.”

“This time, it probably has to do with this matter.....”

“Other tasks?” Leylin was a little curious.

Ever since he had joined Team 3 under Martin, the tasks that had been assigned to him had always been the brewing of frost potions and the like.

In this complicated and taxing task, the presence of the A.I. Chip had begun to show its advantages. Leylin’s completion rate was exceptionally stunning.

Thus, although Leylin consciously hid some of his progress, deliberately committing mistakes, his contribution to the small team was remarkable, gaining him the respect of many of the members.

Leylin followed behind the short Magus, passing through a couple of long and narrow forks, and eventually arriving at Team 3’s meeting point.

Pong! The iron door opened up at once.

“Leylin!”

Martin was slumped over at a long table and using a red pen to write, but after noticing Leylin, he briefly put his existing work on hold, his face revealing a pleasant smile.

To him, Leylin was basically his savior.

With Leylin’s entry into the team, he had been able to complete his own task, assuredly securing his own resources this year, and also helping his team accomplish some marvelous tasks.

It was only now that he believed that Leylin was his lucky star.

There were other members of Team 3 in the spacious room. Upon seeing Leylin, their faces displayed amicable smiles.

“Great! Now that everyone is present, I shall talk about this month’s task!”

Martin happily took out a scroll wrapped with a golden ribbon out from his robe, steadily opening it in front of Leylin and the others.

“Our task this month is to maintain a specific area within the secret plane. Reward: 50 contribution points each!”

Clamour

Even though they were aware that the task this time around would be very good, the Magi situated below were in chaos.

“It’s actually to enter the secret plane! This is really...” The short Magus had a very excited look on his face.

At the corner, Leylin revealed his surprise too. “Such a huge reward, and also, a secret plane?”

A secret plane was a domain that ancient Magi had constructed in order to house resources or conduct experiments. It was isolated by spells, and by the looks of it, the Four Seasons Garden possessed such a place as well.

“I almost forgot, Leylin, you have just joined not long ago, and probably are still unaware of the secret plane!”

Martin closed and rebound the scroll, smiling as he walked towards Leylin.

“Leylin, from what you know, what is the one thing that a Magus values the most?”

“Talent and resources!” Leylin answered without hesitation. This was the common consensus from all Magi in the south coast.

“Not bad. A Magus’s aptitude is set from birth, and is impossible

to change, and the only way to make up for it thereafter is in the resources aspect!”

“With sufficient resources, even a Magus with an average aptitude can possibly reach the footsteps of a gifted Magus... ..”

Martin showed a face of awe.

“Thus, once ancient Magi advanced, they would search for an area that had a high concentration of elemental energy particles, and construct a secret plane to nurture and grow resources... For this reason, it is the root of many ancient Magi remnants that you see now!”

“As for the current generation of Magi, they are far from the overpowering might of ancient Magi, who could cast isolation spells on their own, and set up spells that could stretch and compress space... some needed resources like space rocks for the construction, which cannot be found by the current age Magi!”

“Thus, at the current south coast, the inner circles of magisteriums have joined forces to open up and cultivate a part of a secret plane as a mainstream activity...”

“Perhaps, there are a few lucky ones. Those who are so lucky that they can cause jealousy, obtaining ancient remnants and inheritances and controlling a secret plane. That is really a story of instant success...”

Martin's face was tinged with envy.

Of course, Leylin knew what a secret plane represented, as the knowledge that he had previously gathered at the Dylan Gardens had been deeply etched into his memory.

Simply owning a part of a secret plane would mean the provision of limitless resources!

For a Magi who especially required resources, this was an irresistible offer.

However, the capability of a Magus was limited, and one unable to build a new secret plane on his or her own. Only when working together could Magi build a secret plane.

Leylin had predicted the existence of similar places in the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, but because his level had been lower back then, and he had advanced into a Magus after leaving the Academy, he was unable to prove this point.

“Leylin, you have only been here for a few months, and yet, you are entering into the secret plane. The upper management seem to have a lot of confidence in you, huh!”

Martin patted Leylin on his back in a friendly manner.

“Not at all! Not at all!” Leylin gave a modest expression, appearing rather shy.

“Ha Ha... ...Let’s go!”

Martin laughed and took the lead, and Leylin himself followed closely behind him.

The entrance to the Four Seasons Garden’s secret plane was near the headquarters so that it would be easy to deploy forces to guard the entrance.

Leylin and the rest followed behind Martin, and after following five to six roads, they reached the entrance to the secret plane.

On the way there, Leylin used the A.I. Chip, and felt the five or six energy waves scanning over his group.

Furthermore, the Magi guiding the entrance were of semi-converted elemental strength and beyond.

These types of stringent and vigilant checks caught Leylin by surprise.

Standing in front of them, the stern looking Magi examined the scroll that Martin was holding once more. After which, Martin turned back and shouted to Leylin and the rest, “Get ready, the entrance is about to open!”

The entrance to the secret plane was a door made out of a big slab

of stone, and the borders of the big door were embossed with differing intricate designs.

On a platform beside the entrance, there was a Magus sitting cross-legged, whose countenance was concealed. Extremely mysterious and strong energy waves radiated from his body.

“This is the guardian of the academy! Hurry up and greet him!” Martin led the group of magicians and bowed first.

“This is... At least a rank 2 Magus’ energy waves. It seems like the importance of this secret plane has far surpassed my guesses!” Leylin’s eyes flashed as he bowed like the others.

“Since the inspection is now over, let us enter!”

The guardian waved his arm and chanted an incantation.

Weng Weng! The stone door moved, and a white light radiated from behind the door, giving off a feeling of energy waves emanating from the void.

Having had previous experience in exploring secret planes, Leylin was familiar with the undulations that indicated the opening of the plane.

At the same time, a bright light was produced from the scroll in Martin’s hands, and enveloped the entire group.

When the white lights met and fused, it produced a blinding glare.

As the glare eventually vanished, Martin, as well as the other magicians, were revealed to have disappeared.

“Ugh!”

Leylin rubbed his eyes, which were stinging in pain. “This is really uncomfortable!”

He found himself standing on top of another platform, on which many acolytes were walking around.

Unlike the previous scenery, the surroundings were a sea of green.

The sky was a pure blue, and the surrounding air was extremely fresh.

“Are we within the secret plane? It seems quite large!”

Leylin stroked his chin. “A.I. Chip, analyse the surroundings!”

[Beep! Scanning in process! Compared to the air in the outer world, the density of energy particles within the secret plane is higher by 34.7%!]

The A.I. Chip displayed a chart in front of Leylin, quickly giving him the data that he required.

Chapter 161: Man-Made Rain

“This is shocking, isn’t it?”

Martin joyfully said as he walked closer. “This is the Four Seasons Garden’s four seasons secret plane, which has an overall land area of more than one hundred thousand mu, and is abundant with various types of resources... ..”

“One hundred thousand mu?” Leylin was extremely surprised; this was the land area of a couple countries from before he was reincarnated added up together.

“Yeah, there are not only valuable objects and magical living creatures, but normal humans are in here too...”

Martin pointed towards the distance at what looked like an area of small towns and villages. “We employ normal humans to help us with farming and even working at some plantations for the Magi. This proves that being well organised, well planned with training, and more highly invested human resources, we can produce even more resources...”

“The entire Four Season’s secret plane is the foundation of our Four Season’s Garden, and is an unending stream of treasure!”

“Building the secret plane, cultivating resources, and harvesting; these are the main resources used to furnish the white Magi’s power!” An intoxicating look flashed through Martin’s eyes.

“These one hundred thousand mu of land have such a high energy concentration, and adding the special care and maintenance...” Leylin sighed, as he thought to himself in his heart.

Leylin also felt that the old him was always living in the shadows of the Magus world, whereas right now, he could finally see the differing ideologies of the dark Magi.

The light Magi cultivated the various plantations and animals within the secret plane, thus reaping great resources.

On the other hand, the dark Magi seemed to prefer using violence to obtain these resources.

“Leylin, do you know why the previous check that we went through was so stringent?”

Martin asked unexpectedly.

“Why? Could it be because of the fear of the dark Magi?” Leylin shared his speculations.

“Yes, it’s those wretched beings!” Martin was fuming with rage when he spoke of the dark Magi.

“Those bloodthirsty dark Magi always seek to profit using other

people's toils, and cannot be bothered to run their own secret plane. Instead, from time to time, they plot against our light Magi's secret plane.

The short magician who was at the side revealed the reason.

“Every year, there would be a successful occasion of dark Magi raiding our secret plane! Although they took only the presently available resources, and the secret plane was able to resume production, it was still a tremendous loss...

On the contrary, Leylin was surprisingly knowledgeable about the reasoning behind it.

Although the dark Magi grew up in a bloody and vicious environment, it was undeniable that having grown up in such conditions, these dark Magi were more powerful than the average light Magus.

In the eyes of the dark Magi, whose methods involved preying on the weak, the resources of the white Magi were a veritable gold mine.

Moreover, these kinds of smaller scale battles could even be used as a way for the dark Magi to train their forces.

If the white Magi had not been well organised and united, and the black Magi themselves also had flaws and trust issues, perhaps the balance of power of Magi in the entire south coast may have

been altered.

“Alright, I will allocate the next task!”

Martin stood at the corner again and waited for all the Magi to make their way over, before giving his speech.

“Our task is to clean up an area in the north division, getting rid of the insect pests and diseases within. We also have to pay attention to the disease that is affecting the grassland in the east division. Black spots have appeared on the surface of Horse Milk Grass, and we need to use the First Jacklin Potion to take care of it.”

“Fire Eyes and Hakob, go to the first east division! Oak and Leylin, you two go to the second east division.”

Next, Martin started to announce people’s duties.

“Let’s go!” The midget Magus named Oak told Leylin.

After everyone’s duties had been distributed, the Magi in the third team left the platform in groups of twos and threes.

“There is still a very large distance that we need to traverse to reach the north division, but we have already arranged for a mount, and will be able to reach our destination quickly... ...”

It was obvious that Oak had been here a few times in the past. He brought Leylin to the edge of a building. Facing the window, he asked for 2 of the green metal plates.

“The controlling device for the Dragon Crown Nighthawks?”

By now, Leylin understood that the Four Seasons Garden totally controlled the secret plane.

With the two piercing cries of the Nighthawks, the two Dragon Crown Nighthawks flapped their wings and flew towards the east.

After flying for a distance, if one were to look at the riders from they had set off, one would only be able to see some tiny black specks.

The whistling of the wind continued to sound in Leylin’s ears.

Leylin sat on the wide back of the Nighthawk, sweeping his eyes over the land under him.

In the secret plane, where the amount of energy particles was much denser, all types of vegetation grew very well.

For as far as the eye could see, there were lush green fields, within which there were several organised patches of blue flowers that gave off a sweet scent.

This was the Honey Milk Flower. Not only was it often used by acolytes as an ingredient used in Potioneering, the nectar within the flower was also a food that all beings in the Magus world enjoyed.

With the use of the A.I. Chip, Leylin could see that within the sea of blue, there were several people looking like ants as they worked diligently.

Beside the sea of flowers, there were several obviously man-made constructions, which seemed to have the sole purpose of watching over the flowers.

“Regular humans are in charge of plants that acolytes use as ingredients. As for ingredients that the official Magi usually use, which are more precious, they are more heavily defended, and are bred in special environments that simulate the environment of the outside world.”

After flying for nearly half an hour, they descended into the outskirts of a small town.

“Greetings, my Lords!”

At this moment, a bunch of housewives and children came out from the town, and led by a town mayor and an acolyte, they respectfully greeted Leylin and Oak.

“We have definitely told you everything regarding the general

events that have been taking place! This is my identity token! Bring me to the surveillance tower!”

Oak handed over a badge to the acolyte.

The acolyte seemed to be very old, and there were streaks of white hair behind his ears. He took the badge and traced over the surface of it with his thumb while chanting an incantation.

With the incantation, a layer of white light emerged from the badge and formed an image in midair. The screen listed Leylin’s and Oak’s profiles.

“Lord Leylin! Lord Oak! Please follow me!”

After seeing the image and information, this acolyte seemed to heave a sigh of relief, as he led Leylin and Oak to a tall stone tower within the small town.

“This is the organisation’s surveillance tower. I have been taking on the role as a guard and have been maintaining the tower. Right now it is operating perfectly fine.” The acolyte opened the doors of the surveillance tower as he made his report.

The surveillance tower was extremely simple, and the walls were the colour of ashen grey rocks.

The first floor made up the living quarters of the acolyte, and goods such as the stones and crystals used in the maintenance of

the tower were haphazardly stocked on the second floor.

After going up the long flight of spiral steps, Leylin reached the highest floor of the surveillance tower.

Outside the door of the highest floor, there was actually a living magic creature. It was a painting of a lizard mounted on the wall. “Give me the password!”

“The great mother earth has bestowed upon us her powers!” The acolyte recited in a singsong voice.

“Password confirmed!” Following the reply of the lizard, the door opened with a creak.

“Even though he is only a level 3 acolyte, he’s not bad!”

Leylin looked at the lizard within the painting that was still crawling and commented, before entering the room.

The room at the highest level was very small. There were windows installed on the four walls, and through them, one could observe the scenery surrounding the town.

“This is an apparatus that monitors the weather, and these spell formations complement the fine tuning of humidity and temperature. The controls are extremely simple, but since this is still your first time, Leylin, you can watch me first...”

Oak walked towards a black apparatus.

“Our initial purpose for coming here is to treat the disease that is affecting the Horse Milk Grass...”

Oak pressed on the apparatus, and immediately put on a red plastic mask on his face.

Ka-Cha! A depression appeared in the apparatus. It was the size of a thumb, which could fit a test-tube in.

“First Jacklin Potion!”

Oak placed several test tubes in the depression. Immediately, the green liquids water level slowly fell.

“Rain!” Oak spat out the word in the ancient Byron language. At the same time, water element particles were constantly converging in his palm.

The energy particles were magnified through the apparatus and were eventually expelled out of the tower.

“To have used the magic of magicians to replace science and create man-made rain, this is incredible!” An intoxicated expression appeared on Leylin’s face as he thought.

Any and all paths of progression would eventually converge at the same final destination.

The magicians who harnessed the mysterious powers of magic in this world had nearly achieved the same feats attained in Leylin's previous world.

Ka-Cha!

Above the small town, patches of ominous clouds gathered and seemingly grew denser by the second.

Pitter Patter!

Droplets of green rain fell from the sky.

Dark clouds amassed, and the rain descended upon the grassy plains.

With the onset of rain, the black spots on the surface of the Horse Milk Grass became noticeably lighter. It seemed that with the treatment contained within the rainfall, the grass could have a complete recovery

“The management of the secret plane is also a skill! The method of creating rain is the simplest of all of the techniques that we use. We also need to be aware of the compatibility of the flora and the fauna. For instance, if Night Lotus Flowers and Midnight Bees are put together, not only can this raise the efficiency of the

production of the Midnight Lotus Flowers, it can also increase the vitality of the Midnight Bees, and increase the chance of there being a Bee King. Furthermore, the honey made from the pollen of the Midnight Lotus Flower is also a cosmetic item highly sought after by female Magi.”

Oak gave Leylin a brief introduction.

Leylin’s experience in managing a secret plane was completely non-existent.

Hence, he attentively recorded Oak’s words in his memory and asked questions from time to time in order to lessen his doubts

“However, it’s a pity! If I am able to let the A.I. Chip manage the activities within the secret plane using science and technology, I am confident that I can increase the productivity of the secret plane by at least 20%!”

After understanding the general situation within the secret plane, Leylin felt that this was a pity.

Chapter 162: A Meeting

No matter how great the Four Seasons Garden's secret plane was, it did not belong to him. Therefore, Leylin did not want to reveal his trump cards for the sake of it.

Also, as a newly advanced Magus, it was just a pipe dream for him to own a secret plane all to himself.

Apart from these couple stray thoughts, Leylin did not have any better methods that he wanted to employ.

.....

Seven days later, the crisp caw of a Nighthawk sounded. Leylin sat on the back of a Dragon Crown Nighthawk while flying back to the Nightless City.

The missions to maintain the secret plane were indeed some of the most popular missions.

Leylin and Oak only spent seven days to cleanse the eastern part of the secret plane. Not only was the disease cured, they managed to drive away droves of ferocious beasts.

After which, Leylin and the others who, had nothing else left to do, were sent out of the secret plane. On each of their tokens, there was a huge number of contribution points added.

“I can try my earlier plan now. Also, I need to find several more servants. If I were to do everything myself, it would be a waste of my time...” Leylin thought.

After a span of four months, the backlash from consuming the Darkness crystals disappeared. However, the Four Seasons Garden’s supply was far from enough, so Leylin could only shift his attention to that old witch in the Nightless City.

He remembered that the old witch’s shop had a number of good items.

The sea of people in the Nightless City was the same as before. Leylin flew directly to the passage that hosted the revered magicians and showed his ring to the guards, before entering the city under the respectful bows of the guards.

Suddenly, Leylin’s robes shook. A green light forcefully radiated through his robes.

“En?”

Leylin furrowed his brow, and withdrew a pocket sized diary.

A green secret imprint flashed with light, and from it, the voice of an old lady sounded. “Hey Leylin, are you here yet?”

From the tone of the voice, Leylin could detect a sense of urgency.

Ever since he had handed over a copy of his research on spirits from when he was an acolyte to the old witch, she had proved to have an extreme interest in it. Furthermore, she even given her secret imprint to Leylin.

During these past few months, she seemed to have gotten some progress in her experiment, but she was caught in a bottleneck. Hence, she had been continuously sending messages to Leylin.

It was a pity, however, that Leylin had been inside the Four Seasons Garden brewing potions to exchange for contribution points, so he hadn't paid her any heed.

However, this old witch was extremely patient, and had been sending Leylin a message every few days.

“What is it? Didn't I say that I would try my best to come over as quickly as possible?”

Leylin said to the secret imprint.

At the same time, his footsteps halted, and changed directions towards a deserted alley. He also applied a layer of isolation magic on his body.

“This time, I have amassed many items. Do you remember the

crystallised Darkness energy particles? I have a total of 500 grams here, and I swear that you won't regret it..."

Knowing Leylin's temperament, the old witch hurriedly tossed out her bargaining chip.

"500 grams?" Leylin's brows relaxed, and the original feeling of tension disappeared.

With that many Darkness crystals, combined with the ones he had been saving, it would definitely bring his elemental essence conversion up by another notch.

However, the Darkness crystals were not almighty. According to Leylin's estimation and the A.I. Chip's calculations, if these crystals were to bring his elemental essence conversion up to 70%, then it would already be a godsend.

What's more, the backlash would be extremely terrifying. If his vitality was not superior to other normal magicians, he wouldn't dare to be this crazy.

"Yeah, this time I spared no expense, and even owe some old freaks a couple of favours now... Do you remember our previous transaction? Give me the latter half of the information, and all of these crystals will be yours. Also, there is some prospect of the things that you mentioned to me before happening. As for the details, wait until you come to my shop..."

The old witch's voice gradually faded, but Leylin could tell that she had a certain amount of confidence.

“Okay, wait for me. I'll be right there!” Leylin closed the diary, and hastened his footsteps.

Within Nightless City, Elm Street #231!

“Hehehe... You actually got here so quickly. It seems like you're also anxious to get the items I have!”

Seeing Leylin entering the shop, the witch immediately closed the main doors. It seemed that she was prepared to stop operating her business for the rest of the day.

“You and I are both Magi, but if not for the fact that we both had something the other party wanted, we would not be gathered like this. Don't bother trying to play these mind games!”

Leylin carefully scrutinised the old witch's appearance.

She looked more aged as compared to before. Furthermore, her hair was shrivelling and falling out. It seemed like she had gotten older by thirty to forty years.

“What has happened to you?”

Leylin casually asked.

“It’s nothing much, just a backlash from an experiment!” The old witch obviously did not intend to elaborate.

“All 500 grams of Darkness crystals are here!” The old witch shook her head and placed a black bottle on the counter. Her body was extremely thin, as if she could collapse and die any given moment.

Inside the bottle, there was a layer of half solid and half liquid translucent crystals—the same as what Leylin had seen before.

“Before this, how about the thing I had entrusted you to look for previously? Are there really any prospects now?”

He had made a request to the old witch before, and that matter was no ordinary task.

“Of course, people who are similar are the most sensitive to one another. From your aura, I completely believe in your identity as a dark Magus. Furthermore, the guild behind me is very willing to have you join us...”

The old witch panted and sat on a chair made of vines while talking.

What Leylin had asked of the old witch from before was naturally to seek out an organisation operated by dark Magi.

Even within the Nightless City, which was controlled by the light Magi, there would definitely still be the existence of shadows. These were the grounds where the dark Magi would operate!

After all, Leylin was still a dark Magus through and through. To him, slowly gathering resources like other Magi, and spending time and effort to seek a chance to break through, was far too inefficient for him!

Furthermore, Leylin did not own a secret plane, and with his current wealth, he would definitely not be able to establish one. As a result, he could only work for an organisation in exchange for resources. Such a cumbersome process was unbearable to him.

As for the crudest way of obtaining resources, it was always done through bloodthirsty means. How could a slow and steady accumulation beat the instant gaining of resources through plundering? Although this method had a certain degree of risk, after doing some calculations, Leylin felt that it was within his risk threshold.

In fact, this was the most common thought of the dark Magi.

One could nurture a secret plane on any given day, but once there was an immediate increased need for resources, looting or plundering would have to be done.

As for the previous encounter, Leylin realised that this old witch was not just a dark Magus. Her shop was most likely a contact point for the disposal of stolen goods, and a meeting place for the

dark Magi.

Hence, he had a notion about what was to come.

After all, with his current capabilities, he would not be able to plunder a secret plane, so he would need the help of other magicians.

“En! When will you bring me to see your head?” Leylin asked.

“What about my reward?” The old witch refused.

“First, look at this!” Leylin tossed a scroll to her after thinking.

The old witch caught the scroll, and her eyes squinted. “En! It seems to be an introduction to a type of spiritual force potion. The ingredients required are really rare; you actually need a spirit...”

“Guk Kuk...” Suddenly, as if something got stuck in the old witch’s throat, she let off a gag, her face filled with disbelief.

“This is... A spiritual force formula of the ancient Magi! The primary steps have actually been filled in...”

She looked at Leylin in alarm. “Give me the rest of this information, and the deal will be sealed! I can even give you other types of compensation, and my treasures will be for your taking!”

Towards the old witch's suggestion, Leylin scoffed. "Are you kidding? A copy of a spiritual force potion of the ancient Magi is only worth this much?"

"Then what do you want?"

The old witch's face darkened, and a dark spiritual force energy wave emanated from her body.

Whoosh! As if a strong wind had passed through, the items in the shop began to shake.

"You wish to attack? Don't forget that we're in the Nightless City right now!"

Leylin reminded her as he smiled gently. After which, his eyes flashed, and an immense wave of spiritual force with an inconceivable darkness enveloped the shop.

Bang!

The two forces clashed, and several explosions occurred in the air. The glass bottles in the surroundings cracked open, and several organs and fresh blood seeped from them.

"You actually have such a huge improvement in your spiritual force?" The old witch staggered back two steps, apparently shocked.

“Not only that, look at this too!” Leylin withdrew the identification badge of the Four Seasons Garden, and flashed it at the witch.

“The identity token of the Four Seasons Garden! To think that you had already joined them!”

The old witch was evidently more afraid now.

“Hey hey! Is this Elm Street #231, Marie’s Emporium? I detected strong spiritual force energy waves from your shop earlier; do you need any assistance?”

A milky white light from a secret imprint floated on the old witch’s counter.

“No... It’s nothing. Just a leakage of a failed experiment from earlier...” The old witch looked Leylin in the eye, and said to the secret imprint.

The other party was silent for a moment. “Then I will make this record. Moreover, you have flouted clause 762 of the Nightless City’s security law; please come to the communal centre to pay your fines before the 13th...”

Evidently, the other party had his suspicions, but as the perpetrator of this event, the old witch did not voice any problems, so the other party did not bother to pursue the matter any further.

“I know!” The old witch answered the other party in a superficial manner, before shutting off the secret imprint.

In the Magus world, strength alone was not everything. One needed to have some kind of backing as well.

Chapter 163: Collaboration

Not only did Leylin display his immense might in front of the old witch, he even revealed that he had the backing of the Four Seasons Garden. Hence, the old witch now had no choice but to take him seriously.

As for the possibility of the other party catching hold of Leylin's weak point?

Right now Leylin had not joined any dark Magi organisations, so why would he be afraid of that?

Also, after successfully joining the organisation that the old witch was in, everyone would be in the same boat. Leylin also had other plans, and would never allow this old witch to reveal them to others.

Crash!

A heap of high-grade magic crystals that radiated huge energy waves was emptied on the table, along with a dozen black magic crystal cards.

These magic crystal cards were made of the essence of 1000 magic crystals, which was the origin for many formations source of energy. Hence, they were extremely sought after.

“All of my magic crystals are here. Every item in this shop, as long as you want them, can be yours. If only you could give me that potion’s formula.”

An earnest and pleading expression appeared on the old witch’s face. It seemed that she needed this potion’s formula very badly.

This turn of events left Leylin somewhat shocked.

From what he thought, this old witch would definitely be enthralled by it, but not to such a crazy degree.

However, this situation was naturally more favourable towards him now.

Leylin appeared indifferent as he swept up the magic crystal cards and crystallised Darkness energy particles and stored them in his robes.

“How precious is the formula of a potion that can increase the spiritual force of even official Magi? It isn’t even easy for me to get this kind of item!”

Leylin said nonchalantly, and despair was drawn on the old witch’s face.

“Although the formula cannot be given, we can still cooperate!” Right when the old witch was about to burst in rage, Leylin gently spoke again, causing the old witch relax the energy particles that

she had gathered.

“Cooperate? How are we going to do that?”

“You’re an expert in the field of spirits, and the raw ingredients for this spiritual potion are all spirits! You’ll provide the ingredients and do all of the other preparatory work, and I’ll be in charge of brewing the potion. As for the potions that are successful, I’ll get 60% of them, and you’ll get the remaining 40%!”

Leylin suggested.

It was obvious that this proposal seemed to hit the old witch’s soft spot.

In terms of potential, she couldn’t take down the present Leylin, and the power backing Leylin was also one that caused her some amount of fear. In addition, this potion was extremely important to her.

“The ratio is too little. I’ll be obtaining the spirits and doing all the prep work, which is much more dangerous. If I ever get caught by the light Magi, I’ll definitely be chased to the ends of the world!”

The old witch emphasised the fact that she’d be in the most danger.

“That’s the best you’ll get! It won’t get any higher than this!”

Leylin wore a deadpan expression. “After all, the formula is in my hands. As long as you agree, we can immediately sign a contract and summon the Trial’s Eye to bear witness to it!”

“...Very well!” The old witch was silent for a long while, before forcing the words out of her mouth.

After picking another time to meet, Leylin left the area with a smile about his lips.

He had been planning on collaborating with her since after their first meeting.

The spiritual force potion that he had shown earlier was naturally the ancient potion formula for the Tears of Mary.

Back when he was an acolyte, he had already completed a simplified version of it—the Blood Vengeance Potion.

After he had advanced into a Rank 1 Warlock and upgraded the A.I. Chip, Leylin finally possessed the capabilities to restore the original incomplete formula of the potion.

This potion was indeed befitting of use by the ancient Magi. According to the A.I. Chip’s simple calculation, the Tears of Mary currently proved to be extremely beneficial for Leylin to speedily increase his spiritual force.

A large amount of spirits that had to be harvested, combined

with the early stages of preparatory work, was extremely complicated and savage. The brutality contained was leagues above that of brewing the Blood Vengeance Potion! If the light Magi were to find out, Leylin's only outcome would be a chase to the death, and even interrogation regarding the formula.

Leylin did not have the time and effort to take on such a risk.

Moreover, due to the potion formula's special nature, the magicians who could handle the preparatory work had to have the strength of an official Magus and a deep understanding regarding the aspect of spirits.

Right now, the old witch was the only one that fulfilled this criterion.

Within the Four Seasons Garden, there were sure to be Magi who were able to fulfill these requirements, but Leylin wouldn't even consider it.

This spiritual potion, which was suitable for official Magi, was much more costly than those suitable for acolytes. Furthermore, it was an ancient potion! Leylin wasn't so stupid as to think that he could keep possession of this formula. It would definitely be seized in the name of the organisation.

Even though the organisation was sure to give him some benefits, would it outweigh the advantages of having sole possession of the formula?

A potion that could raise one's spiritual power was a temptation that no official Magus would be able to resist.

As a result, with Leylin's persuasion, the old witch quickly agreed.

In addition, the two of them made an unbreakable vow, to which the Trial's Eye bore witness.

The old witch was even forced to swear not to leak any information about Leylin or the potion formula.

This was, of course, at Leylin's request. This way, even if someone found out the old witch's secret, they would not be able to trace it back to Leylin.

In fact, Leylin pushed all the risk of material gathering onto the old witch!

Hence, he did not hesitate to give her 40% of the potions that would be brewed!

As for the formula of the potion, Leylin had given the old witch most of the contents of the first half. As for the few most crucial steps, it was solely controlled by him.

As long as he held on to those key steps, Leylin didn't need to worry about the old witch possibly rebelling against him.

These last few procedures were not only extremely tedious but also required the help of the A.I. Chip to achieve true success. Even if others had gotten the complete formula, they might not be able to brew the potion successfully.

As for the witch who needed the potion, she had no choice but to toil for Leylin, taking on the extreme risk of harvesting souls, and also completing the bloody preparation of the early stages of the brewing process.

After signing the contract, Leylin and the old witch were, to some extent, in the same boat, so the matter of being referred to a dark guild would naturally be followed up.

“But that old witch’s reaction was a little strange. She agreed so easily in order to obtain the potion. I was prepared to give her more materials, but she actually agreed to my conditions so quickly, almost as if the potion wasn’t for herself, but for someone else...”

The wheels in Leylin’s head were constantly turning as he ambled along.

“No, this is better for me. If I have misgivings about this arrangement, then I will have something that I can use as blackmail material...”

Under the setting sun’s light, Leylin’s shadow was drawn out onto the streets, looking somewhat malevolent, as if it were a

devil...

In the shop from before.

The old witch stood there silently until she confirmed Leylin's departure. After that, she walked to the counter and pressed on a hidden area.

Boom!

A mechanical sound was heard, and the wall at the back of the shop was pushed backwards, revealing a flight of steps that headed downwards.

The old witch held onto her cloak as she slowly walked down.

The staircase was extremely short, ending after just a couple of steps.

This was a basement, and it was positioned right below the old witch's shop. Moreover, there were many runes inscribed onto the walls of the basement room.

There were a few human bones scattered in the corners of the room as well.

There were many traces of scars on these bones, which could only let one imagine the torture and suffering that the owners

went through while they were alive.

A frosty aura continuously encircled the room.

If Leylin was here, he would definitely recognise this familiar feeling. It was similar to the lab back in the Extreme Night City, where he was trying to create vengeful spirits.

Sssii! The old witch lit a candle in the centre of the room.

This candle was a transparent white, yet the flame was a dark green. The old witch's horrendous countenance looked even more malicious under the flame.

“Mother...”

Whoosh! A black tornado swept across the basement, and after a flash of black gas, there was suddenly a translucent figure in the basement.

This figure belonged to a young girl wearing a simple dress. Her shadow was extremely faint as if she was on the verge of dissipating.

“My daughter!” A kindly, yet heartbroken expression appeared on the old witch's face.

“What happened just now? Why did I feel a strong and vicious

energy burst out upstairs?” The girl’s expression was one of suspicion.

“No! It’s nothing, just a slight dispute while I was doing business...”

The old witch looked tense. “Did it hurt you?”

“I’m alright, it’s only that...” The girl crouched on the floor and hugged her knees. “Don’t bother with me anymore; it has already costed you large amounts of resources to protect my existence. If not for me, wouldn’t you have long since advanced?”

“My dear daughter!” The old witch’s eyes reddened, and she wanted to hug her daughter, yet her two hands could only weave through the girl’s ghostly figure.

Following which, the girl’s arms turned even more illusory, as if they were going to scatter any moment.

“Oh! No! Why is this even faster than before?”

Fright appeared on the old witch’s face, and she frantically withdrew various items from her robes and placed them on the floor, forming a tiny spell formation.

In the center of the formation, there was a spirit trapped within a crystal ball.

“Almighty Defiling Mother, I hereby sacrifice the fear of this spirit in return for your blessings...”

The old witch continued to chant in an extremely awkward sounding incantation, all while pointing at the spirit.

“Ah...” The sound of anguish and terror travelled outwards from within the crystal ball, threads of silvery-white gas constantly being drawn out from the spirit’s body.

The silvery-white gas quickly supplemented the girl’s body, and her almost dissipated body gradually became more stable.

“It’s starting again! I don’t want to do this... It’s too... too cruel...” The girl quietly sobbed.

“I found a potion today, and the formula is said to have been used by ancient Magi to raise their spiritual power. It’ll definitely be effective for you! Stay strong! Stay strong for a little while longer, and mother will definitely help you regain your physical body.”

The old witch continuously consoled her.

Chapter 164: Participate And Plunder

Leylin did not know of the incident that happened after he left the small shop.

After coming to an agreement with the old witch, he first went to the most famous and lavish restaurant in the Nightless City for a sumptuous meal. Following that, he brought gifts to Crew's villa to thank him for divulging some information beforehand.

As for Crew, after he saw Leylin who had successfully become a member of the Four Seasons Garden, his shocked expression almost caused Leylin to laugh.

Although the Four Seasons Garden was rated as first class with complete experimentation facilities, it was undeniable that in terms of enjoyment it was still lacking to what the Nightless City had to offer.

Leylin finally understood why many members who had a dormitory in the headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden still visit the Nightless City during their vacation period.

For Magi, their long lifespan and inhuman strength allowed them to easily obtain much influence and status.

And apart from research and analysis, these mortal pleasures became one of their ways of entertainment.

Upon seeing no hope of advancing further, many elderly Magi would retire from their organisations and into Nightless City, enjoying their life to the fullest.

Leylin's neighbour, Crew, was a good representation of those kinds of people.

However, for the time being, this matter was too far in the future for Leylin to even be thinking about, since he was still young and had a lot of potential to rise in power. It was far too early to get discouraged.

Whiling the time away was just a method for him to vent and relax during his free time.

.....

Time passed quickly, and three days later, Leylin abided by the promise and met with the old witch once again.

“Follow me! I'll bring you to a meeting with the organisation that's backing me!”

She brought Leylin out of Nightless City.

In a rather isolated forest, the old witch took out a ghost mask and put it on. “The dark Magi organisations and light Magi ones

are different. Any divulgence of information will lead us into trouble. Hence, many members conceal their identity. You had better cover your face and think of a nickname!”

It seemed that before obtaining the complete formula of the Tears of Mary, the old witch had already treated Leylin to be in an alliance with her.

After all, compared to promises and pledges, the constraints bound by benefits were more everlasting.

“My nickname is ‘Old Devil’. Don’t call me by the wrong name!” The old witch reminded him, apparently worried.

“Concealing identities? I like this idea!” Leylin nodded, and his facial muscles twisted. The colour of his hair also changed from jet-black to silver white.

At the same time, he fitted a mask onto his face. “When we reach there, call me ‘Blood Rogue’!”

The dark Magi’s system was much more appropriate for Leylin’s tastes.

In addition, hiding his identity would also be useful for his work within the Four Seasons Garden.

The meeting was conducted at the bottom of a swamp.

Even though this place could be likened to hell for regular humans, for Leylin and official Magi, this was just a matter of walking a few steps further.

After passing through the swamp, which was emitting a putrid smell, Leylin found himself in a space under the ground, which had been set up at that instant.

“You’re late! Old Devil! And you seem to have brought in fresh blood?”

A black mouse, the size of a burly adult, stood on its hind legs, as it stared fiercely at Leylin, its small eyes full of distrust.

“Yes, he is the one I’ve spoken about before. His name is ‘Blood Rogue’!”

“Although the blood reeking aura on him tells me that he is a dark Magus, but those turncoat trashes who had gone to the light Magi’s side are too many. We need a deeper level of confirmation...”

Besides the black mouse was a bald Magus whose facial features seemed to have melted. There was also a large black boa coiled around its body.

“He has frightened my baby!”

The boa, upon seeing Leylin immediately retreated with fear, as if seeing its natural enemy. Afterwards, it then respectfully laid down on the floor showing its allegiance to Leylin. This turned the bald Magus' expression extremely unsightly.

Leylin understood then that the fact the boa bowed in front of him was due to his Giant Kemoyin Serpent's bloodline.

This was an ancient creature's bloodline, which had a natural disposition and control over its own species.

"Damn it!" The bald Magus attacked.

Something that looked like bestial claws appeared in the air and pounced at Leylin, the attack accompanied by the howls of wild creatures.

"You're looking to die!"

Leylin roared, and a scarlet light bursting out of his body as he scratched at the air with his right hand!

Innumerable black shadows emerged from the darkness and twined around those bestial claws. Sssii! White vapour emerged unceasingly, and the beast claws engulfed within the black shadows began to dissolve, turning into drops of black liquid that dripped onto the floor.

"Ugh!" Meanwhile, the bald Magus turned pale and he retreated

a few steps, seeming to have taken a little damage.

“Hahahaha... What did I just see? Venom Snake, you actually cannot even control a newbie!”

A female Magus wearing a white mask mocked him.

“Hmph, you just wait!” The bald Venom Snake stared coldly at Leylin but did not attack him a second time.

Before arriving here, the old witch had already given Leylin a brief introduction.

This small organisation was formed by a few dark Magi after several trades, so there weren't any strict rules, so much so that all the members had their identities concealed.

However, after some time, the organisation expanded in power, and could already rival the existence of medium tiered guilds.

As the members were all dark Magi, the entry requirements were extremely lax. Many members had enmity between them, but against the immense pressure from the light Magi, they still chose to ally themselves with this organisation.

As for the previous few Magi who tried to make things difficult for Leylin, it was a mere formality.

Right now, Leylin had displayed his prowess, so naturally, no one else dared to provoke him.

“Alright now! Blood Rogue is referred by me. Furthermore, I can vouch for him!” The old witch said.

“Since Old Devil’s already said this, and all who join us need to make a soul pledge, it’s definitely not a problem!” A Magus, with the head of a tiger, spoke.

From what Leylin had heard from the old witch, she had entered this organisation a long time ago and could be considered an elder. From the looks of it, this seemed to be true.

“Alright! The reason why we’re gathered here today isn’t to welcome the new guy... How is the plan from the previous time we met going on?”

Another Magus, who had enveloped himself in a green fog, inquired.

“Since we’re all here, then it must mean that we’re all into this. Also, we can give our newbie a test!” The baldy Venom Snake stared at Leylin.

“Attacking a secret plane huh? Count me in, but also give me an equal portion of the resources obtained!”

Leylin said blandly.

This was something that the old witch told him earlier.

Such a large group of dark Magi gathering was not just to exchange resources.

To them, self-production was too slow. The best way was still to plunder resources from the light Magi!

Also, it was not that the dark Magi did not produce their own resources. However, during the time of managing their own secret planes, they also plundered to increase their harvest.

Leylin only understood all these recently.

But the reason why he had joined a dark Magi's organisation was precisely for this reason, so he was naturally supportive of their plan.

“Good! Since everyone's in agreement, I'll go through the entire plan.”

“The secret plane I've discovered this time is located in a small-scaled secret storage plane used by the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower. There's an enforcement group comprised of official Magi keeping an eye on it, and the strongest Magus among them has an elemental essence conversion of above 80%. I'll lead him away, so I want 40% of our profit!”

The Magus within the green fog spoke.

“I agree!”

“I agree!”

... This had obviously been agreed upon previously, and the surrounding Magi looked at each other and quickly voiced their agreement as they nodded.

“To be so certain that he can guide that Magus away must mean that that Magus within the green fog is very strong! He must be on the verge of advancing to the 2nd rank!”

Leylin shivered inwardly. He was very clear about the strength he held, and his position in the group.

Just based on the advantage of Warlocks in the innate spells and vitality, adding on to his current elemental essence conversion, right now he could defeat a semi-converted elemental Magus head on. However, towards those Magi with over 80% elemental essence conversion, he still did not stand a chance.

As for the members in this dark Magi organisation, they were mostly semi-converted elemental Magus, who would be considered as elites within the south coast.

As for small scaled secret planes, they were different from the Four Seasons Garden that Leylin saw previously which spanned

over 1 million mu.

The small scaled secret planes were set up by Magi who wished to store resources and other precious resources. Just like the Dylan Gardens, the area might not be extremely vast, but the items within were extremely valuable.

As for Four Seasons Garden's secret plane, it was a large scaled resource production point. As the area was vast, the construction cost was extravagant. Hence they had a rank 2 Magus guarding over it.

It was evident that if this organisation that Leylin was in attempted to rob the Four Seasons Garden's secret plane, the number of members who went would spell the number of deaths.

However, to deal with a small scaled secret plane which only had a rank 1 Magus as the guardian, as long as the plan was executed perfectly, it was very likely to be a success.

“Alright! Since there are no other questions, then let us set off now!”

The Magus in the green fog withdraw a watch and looked at it.

“Let's go! My precious is already longing for fresh blood!” The baldy Venom Snake smiled in a savage and malevolent manner...

.....

In a place not too far from Nightless City.

There were several man-made buildings, from which Magi in disguise frequently entered and exited.

“This is the branch of Ennea Ivory Ring Tower. The secret plane that I inquired about is within this place...”

The voice of the Magus within the green fog travelled over, faintly discernible, “I’ll lead the guardian away. You have to plunder the secret plane before the guards of Nightless City arrive. Act based on the plan and remember, your time limit is 5 minutes!!!”

“Don’t worry, it’s not like this is our first time working together!”

The Old Devil, which the old witch was playing the role of, laughed coldly.

Chapter 165: Crimson Palm

“Go!”

With the command, the Magus enshrouded in green mist acted first.

After an incantation, he floated in the air, green mist continuously emanating from his body.

Whoosh! All of the dark green fog turned into a hurricane and struck at a part of the division in Leylin’s field of vision.

Sssii! This green fog seemed to have extremely acidic properties.

Several acolytes wailed as they turned into white bones after the fog engulfed them. Even the surrounding ground turned even softer and muddier, turning into a marsh.

Even the light from part of the defensive spell formation trembled under the corrosive power of the green fog, as if it was going to shatter at any moment.

“Who is it? You actually dare to attack a division of the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower?”

An enraged voice sounded out. Following which, a figure wearing

black armour flew up into the air.

“Kill!” The black clothed figure coldly shouted, and smoke billowed from the ground, turning into a skull as it struck the green fog.

“Hehehe...” The Magus in the green fog cackled. Under his command, the green fog took on the form of a scorpion as it clashed with the skull.

Boom!

Bang!

The surroundings seemed to have been struck by 10 different hurricane force winds, which then dissipated in all directions.

The mighty destructive power immediately caused the division’s building to be shaven off by a layer.

“Is this the might of a Magus who has fulfilled the requirements for breaking through to the next rank?” Leylin watched the actions of the Magus in mid-air closely, a strange light in his eyes.

With the Magus in the green mist taking control, the battle in the air became increasingly one-sided.

“It’s our turn now!” Rodent, who was half the size of a regular

man, licked his lips.

“Newbie! Don’t get intimidated! If you hinder this operation, I’ll be the first to claim your life!”

Venom Snake threatened him.

“If you obstruct me, you’ll definitely be the one dead!”

Leylin, who was going by the name of Blood Rogue, made a sound as he snickered. A potion exploded and formed a red membrane on his body.

“Giant’s green fog is an extremely powerful type of area of effect spell. It can deal devastating damage to all targets within the area of effect!”

The old witch who was wearing the mask explained to Leylin.

“Be careful; although Giant has lured the strongest enemy away, the remaining enforcers won’t be easy to deal with either...”

“Hehe... Those light Magi are like little rabbits. I’ve long since wanted to rip open their chests and savour the taste of their innards...”

A zombie-like dark Magus licked his lips as he turned into a gust of black wind, charging into the division’s building, whose

defensive spell formation had broken down.

Whoosh!

As if his action signalled the start, dozens of strange colours with powerful energy waves radiating from them charged towards the division.

“Crap! It’s a trap, inform the team leader quickly!”

The light Magi who were by the entrance watched the dozens of dark Magi dashing towards them, and their expressions immediately changed. Even their voices cracked.

“Haha... Boss Giant may have some difficulty killing your leader, but it’s not a problem for him to stall for time! Even if your leader finds something wrong, it’ll be too late for him to save you...”

The old witch laughed loudly as she tossed two silver coloured metal balls towards the building.

Boom!

The silver metal balls both exploded like grenades. After the shock waves had dissipated, a spell continuously encircled the area and the air was contorted, even to the point that the energy particles in the air were unstable.

Bzzt bzzt The sound of electromagnetic interference boomed throughout the area.

“Not good! It’s an Elemental Fluctuation Bomb! They actually have something like that!”

The light Magi’s faces were ashen as they quickly retreated.

“Alright! None of the communication spells work, and space magic is now impossible to use. Comrades enjoy this blood fest! You only have a limit of 5 minutes...”

The old witch waved her hand.

“Spirit Explosion!”

Boom! A translucent spirit suddenly appeared in the surroundings of the light Magi and exploded.

Against the energy waves that targeted the spirit, one light Magus retreated several steps. Blood began to flow from his seven facial orifices.

However, in the instant that he retreated, a translucent worm appeared from the contortions in the air, directly charging towards the light Magus.

Ka-Cha! A defensive lightning shield appeared around the light

Magus' body, protecting him within.

Pu! The lightning shield crumpled like paper in the face of the worm, shattering from just the first touch. The crystal like worm drove its way right into the Magus' mouth.

“Ugh...” The light Magus' face turned purple, looking like an eggplant as he clutched at his throat and collapsed.

“Hehe, I don't usually have the luxury of using magic as I please and collecting souls! Same rules, all spirits collected in battles must be handed over to me. I guarantee a good price!”

Silver light permeated the old witch's hands as she retrieved a crystal ball from her robes and approached the light Magus, who had lost all signs of resistance. Her lips moved non-stop as she chanted something.

Following her incantation, the light Magus' eyes became blurry, and an indistinct human figure was pulled out from that Magus' body.

“This old witch is really a lunatic! She's actually collecting spirits directly from the battlefield!”

Leylin watched her work, unperturbed by her surroundings, and suddenly began to regret his initial decision.

However, it was just for a moment that he shot a glance in the

direction of the old witch. Immediately after, he spilled some red powder onto his two hands.

“Crimson Palm!”

As he chanted, a layer of crimson coloured light suffused both of Leylin’s arms. His palms turned extremely slender, and his fingernails turned razor sharp and also slightly transparent.

This was a rank 1 spell from the Book of Giant Serpent that Leylin had long since recorded into his memory through the A.I. Chip.

Although his rank 1 spell’s might was a little lower, with only a degree of 20 or so, with the addition of his elemental essence conversion, it was enough to deal with a normal rank 1 Magus.

Right now, Leylin was hiding his identity, so innate gifts and spells that were eye catching could not be used.

However, he had already prepared another set of spells to cast in times like this.

[Host’s palms have had a slight adjustment in strength. Strength in arms are now stronger, with an added effect of poison!] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

Looking at the surroundings, where every Magus had found his or her own opponent, Leylin smiled as he casually picked on a light Magus who came charging at him.

Crash!

The slender, yet extremely menacing fingers clawed through the void, and large energy waves surged through the air as if the surface of a lake had been ripped through.

Leylin's body flashed as his red shadow rapidly moved around on the battlefield, leaving behind only a series of mirages.

“Who exactly are you guys? Which organisation are you from?”

The opponent that Leylin chose was a middle-aged man wearing loose white robes, yet an extremely aged voice came from his larynx.

Leylin only clawed viciously as a reply.

Thump!

Leylin struck with his right hand, directly slashing a few marks onto the opposing Magus' body.

In front of Leylin's Crimson Palm, the official Magus' standard white robes were like paper, getting slashed into pieces, and leaving behind a large hole.

“Elemental Shield!” The middle-aged Magus roared.

Brown energy particles gathered unceasingly and solidified to form a thin, yellow, full-body armour, protecting his entire body. Even his head was shielded with a helmet, leaving just a pair of sparkling eyes.

“I will ask again, who is behind this attack, dark Magus!” The middle aged man continuously staggered backwards, his hands stealthily reaching into his robes.

“You talk too much!”

Leylin struck again, his crimson claws leaving a scratch on the yellow armour.

“It’s useless!” The middle aged Magus howled. Traces of brown energy particles were continuously being absorbed into the dents of the armour, quickly restoring most traces of damage.

[Target’s innate spell has been scanned and recorded. Beginning simulation and parameter testing to find out the weakest point!]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned. It also projected the 3D image of a human figure wearing the yellow armour. Several points on the armour were marked red, representing the weak points.

While Leylin attacked, the middle-aged Magus withdrew a scroll from his robes, from which tremendous energy waves emanated.

“A formidable spell in a scroll? I can’t let him activate it!” Leylin’s pupils contracted as he let loose an extremely high-pitched shriek.

“Hisssss...” This was the voice of an extremely venomous snake, and was so unpleasant to the ears that it could draw goosebumps from others.

When the sound waves reached the middle-aged Magus, a blank look appeared on his face, and the speed at which he was opening the scroll slowed.

“Right here!” Leylin’s footsteps moved in a bizarre manner as he rapidly increased his speed and covered a distance of over ten meters. In the blink of an eye, he arrived in front of the middle-aged Magus.

The bright red light of the Crimson Palm on his right hand shone even more vividly as he clawed at the area 3 inches above the Magus’ abdomen, which was protected by his armour.

The first claw! A depression the size of a fist appeared in the brown armour, and a large part of the armour fell.

The second claw! The middle-aged Magus’ innate defensive spell was destroyed by Leylin.

“No! Please forgive me, the value of a Magus kept in captive is high!”

It was obvious that this light Magus was used to living a privileged lifestyle, and lacked the will to even fight for his own life, sinking to his knees in front of Leylin.

However, Leylin's face was ice cold, like a thousand year old frost. His right hand struck again, crushing the middle-aged Magus' head like a watermelon.

Crunch!

White brain matter and scarlet blood stained Leylin's hands. His hands seemed even more demonic and alluring.

"There's an unexpected reward!"

Leylin picked up the Magus' scroll, his face filled with glee.

"A pretty good scroll; the energy waves are extremely strong. It seems like it should be able to hold its own even amongst rank 1 spells! It should be worth quite a bit of magic crystals..."

Right at this moment, a wretched scream caught Leylin's attention.

Chapter 166: A Successful Retreat

Leylin turned around and saw the baldy's snake shoot an ice bullet, which shattered the innate defense spell of his opponent.

At the same time, the precious boa of his charged, revealing razor sharp fangs and sinking them into the light Magus' neck.

Baldy's opponent was a rather young looking Magus with blonde hair and blue eyes. He had an extremely cheery disposition.

It was a pity, however, that right now, this light Magus had death written all over his face. With the continuous constriction of the boa, his life was drained away.

After killing the light Magus, the baldy's Venom Snake threw Leylin a provocative look.

However, Leylin acted as if he saw nothing, and dashed right into the division of the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

“Right now, he wants to be petty about such things and not steal treasures? This Magus is definitely somewhat mental!”

Leylin hurriedly ran past the doors and arrived at a place that seemed to be a library.

“These are all information meant for acolytes, so I’ll forgo them. A.I. Chip, scan!” Leylin’s eyes hurriedly swept the area. This library consisted of two floors, and the total area was rather huge. However, Leylin had read most of the books found here before, so they were not of much value to him.

[Beep! Mission establishing, beginning scan...]

After which, a light blue image was formed and appeared in Leylin’s vision.

Through this image, Leylin could easily discover that between the two floors, there was an extremely tiny passage.

Right now, there was no one in the library, and books and chairs were strewn across the floor. It seemed that the people who were here had escaped quickly.

Leylin strode past the lobby and came to the hidden spot.

“It’s in here huh?”

Leylin looked at the wall before his hands punched into it without hesitation!

Boom! Dust flew around in the room, and an extremely narrow passage was revealed at the collapsed portion of the wall.

“Hmm?”

The passage was extremely short, and at the back, there was a small room. There were several shelves upon which some memory crystal balls sat on. Moreover, in the room sat three quivering acolytes.

“Ennea Ivory Ring Tower huh? George isn’t here!”

Leylin gave a quick scan and slightly waved his Crimson Palm.

A blurry red light filled the small room.

The three acolyte’s eyes turned red, and they immediately lost consciousness, their bodies still trembling as signs of life became less obvious. From the looks of it, they wouldn’t live past today.

In front of an official Magus like Leylin, these regular acolytes’ lives were like those of ants. With just a slight misstep, he might accidentally kill a few of them.

Leylin paid no mind as he stepped across the acolytes’ bodies, which were still involuntarily trembling, and came to the front of one of the wooden shelves.

“Elementary Meditation Techniques” “Potioneering
Foundations...” “Rune Theories” “Study of Particles”

The crystal balls on the wooden shelves were more valuable items, which could immediately transmit information into a magician's mind without them forgetting anything.

Leylin's eyes swept past the crystal balls and noticed that they contained information meant for acolytes, which was not of much use to him. However, there was a clutter of black crystal balls in the middle of all of them, with various tags showing the high-grade information stored within. This caused Leylin to grin...

A dozen seconds later, Leylin walked out from the library, which combusted in flames just seconds later.

At this moment, the whole division was in chaos, with magic spells being continuously fired across the battlefield.

After killing most of the official Magus enforcers, most of the division's defenses fell apart.

Some were even acolytes who couldn't resist the attacks of a group of dark Magi!

The dark Magi wilfully plundered resources as they deemed fit, destroying everything they could see before them, and letting loose their inner cravings for darkness.

Leylin watched the scene with a blank expression, using the A.I. Chip to scan the entire branch.

He didn't have much time, and there was at most a few minutes before Nightless City's allied forces arrived. No matter how insane Leylin was, he wouldn't dare to contend with a large number of light Magi.

“From the structure, this isn't a division of the academy. Rather, this is more similar to a research organisation, with a lot fewer people here...”

Leylin traversed an area with disorganised architecture and idly looked around.

“I found it!”

An excited voice rang out. “Guys, come here! I've found the entrance to the secret plane!”

“Hm?”

“That's great!”

Multiple equally eager voices came for all around the region, and the dark Magi from before all gathered in a small garden.

Here, the large Rodent Magus was constantly rubbing his black claws, his beard sticking up, and his tiny eyes greedily fixated upon an oval object in the sky.

That object seemed to be a mirror with silver rays of light surrounding it. In the centre was a deep and dark spiral.

“I’m sorry, my magic can only show you the entrance to the secret plane. It will take some time to forcefully gain entry!”

The large Rodent immediately asked, “Which of you captured any opposing Magi? Interrogate them and get the password and method to enter!”

“Look for Old Devil, she’s an expert in this field!”

The zombie-like Magus was carrying the naked corpse of a female acolyte, gnawing her flesh from time to time as if savouring a delicacy.

“Hehe... That Magus’ spirit was extracted smoothly by me earlier; it seems like this will be a great harvest!”

The old witch cackled and walked towards the silver circular hole, while chanting an extremely awkward sounding incantation.

Weng Weng!

The void emitted energy waves as the circular entrance became enlarged, revealing the dark space of what seemed to be a storage.

“Haha... We have struck the jackpot...” The giant mouse rushed

in like a whirlwind, with the following dark Magi following behind.

“I’ll stay behind to keep watch!” The old witch tossed several powder-like substances on the ground. “Anyway, we have to divide them in the end...”

Leylin exchanged a meaningful look with the old witch as he went into the secret plane.

This secret plane was extremely small—about the size of a large warehouse. There was only one passage for people to walk about. On both sides of the warehouse, there were many labeled items and ingredients.

“Hurry! Pick the most valuable items and go, and burn the rest that we don’t need!”

Zombie tossed the female corpse aside and looked at the door of the warehouse, before stepping in with a snort.

Leylin looked at the dark Magi who were happily shoving items into their pockets, and could not help but shake his head.

In the Magus world, those magic artifacts which had spatial capabilities were extremely precious. At most, Leylin had only heard of them in legends and folklore. Until now, he had never seen any Magus owning an item like that.

Hence, most Magi could only carry the most valuable items with them. Every time they went on a mission, they would be carrying many sacks, with some even having horse carriages that were filled with empty chests.

As for right now, there were too many items in this warehouse. Leylin and the others could only choose the most valuable ones, and as for other large items, these dark Magi, who were already consumed by greed, could only choose to destroy them.

“If I had a spatial ring or something like that in future, then it would be much more convenient!”

Leylin rushed into a section where the shelves were filled with various ingredients, as well as heaps of magic crystals that had been tossed in a corner like trash.

Leylin quickly stuffed the precious materials into his own pockets. He immediately ignored the low-grade magic crystals, and only the high-grade magic crystals and magic crystal cards caught his eye.

At this moment, he was still indulging in his fantasies.

“Of course, rather than getting any spatial ring, the best thing to do would be to occupy this territory. That would be real profit without any investment!”

Leylin was a little regretful about this, but he could only bury his

delusions into the bottom of his heart.

[Beep! 4 Minute 37 Seconds have passed in the countdown, reaching close to the value set by the Host!]

The A.I. Chip's voice intoned.

“There's no more time! Retreat!” Leylin's eyes reflected his resolution, and he speedily left the warehouse.

“Nightless City's forces are arriving. Run!”

After Leylin left the secret plane, he heard Rodent's flustered voice.

“Go!”

Leylin and the old witch nodded, and transformed into two streaks of shadows, which disappeared into the air.

After the retreat of all the dark Magi, Leylin turned back to observe the sight of black flames emitting from Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

Some of the Magi from the Nightless City who were using rank 1 flying magic descended from the sky.

.....

A giant beast dashed past the land.

Looking on, this beast was over 50 metres tall and 200 metres long. Its appearance closely resembled a large hippopotamus, and its jaws occupied almost half of its body size.

With every step that this gargantuan beast took, deep imprints would be made on the ground. Also, there were also tremors, as if mini earthquakes were occurring.

The surrounding animals would scatter and flee after seeing this beast, not daring to stay a moment longer.

Within this beast, the group of dark Magi from earlier were gathered inside of a large hall.

The Magus wrapped in green fog, who went by the name of “Giant,” stood unscathed in the middle, and his aura had not even decreased by much. It was evident that he had disposed of his opponent with much ease.

“Alright! Since all of us here have made our vows and have undergone the judgment of the Trial’s Eye, take out 50% worth of the items that you have plundered!”

Giant spoke in a cold voice.

Despite the chaos of the Magi below, under the constraints of the power of the higher ups, as well as their oaths, they hastily piled some magic crystals and materials in the centre of the hall.

Soon enough, the materials and magic crystals formed a small mountain.

“This all amounts to at least ten million magic crystals!” Leylin’s eyes flashed as he mentally calculated.

“Moreover, this is only 50%. Which is to say, the division of the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower has lost close to twenty million magic crystals, along with the destruction of other items... The Ennea Ivory Ring Tower is going to go nuts this time...”

After giving it some thought, he was a little curious and asked the old witch beside him in a low voice.

“Do we really have to give up 50% of our profits? Isn’t that too much?”

Chapter 167: To Maraud

“You thought... the magic crystals are all for Giant?”

The old witch snuck a glance at Giant, who was saying something, and answered Leylin under her breath.

“Am I wrong?” Leylin was a little astonished.

“Of course not. Even though Giant is pretty impressive, he’s no rank 2 Magus. Out of this pile, he’ll get at most 40% of it!” She pointed to the little mountain in the middle of the room.

“As for the rest, they’ll all go to ‘Boss’!” The old witch was vague.

“Boss?!” Hearing this phrase started Leylin’s imagination.

Magi only respected power. For even the old witch to call someone ‘Boss’, this must mean that this person, Boss, was at least a rank 2 Magus, right?

“Who else? Who do you think is the one warding off the light Magi’s divination magic?”

She retorted with a manic laugh.

“According to what I know, there are at least two to three dark

Magi organisations like us. As for their backers, there will also be various people controlling from behind the scenes...”

As they were in a mutual alliance through the previous agreement with the potions, the old witch was evidently placing more trust in Leylin, hence she just told him some information that had been withheld from him.

“Marauding the light Magi’s secret plane is definitely not carried out on a whim by the dark Magi. On the contrary, these operations are systematic and are all premeditated!”

A notion quickly flew through Leylin’s mind and occupied his thoughts.

“Who knows, there might be several powerhouses behind the dark Magi domain that also have a hand in this!” Leylin grinned.

“This seems to be getting more and more interesting...”

However, this had nothing to do with Leylin. His current goal was to join in the dark Magi organisation’s looting operations and obtain large amounts of resources.

Just the efforts from tonight had brought in a revenue of five to six hundred thousand magic crystals! This was obviously more convenient and faster than doing missions for the Four Seasons Garden.

Of course, the risk was no small matter and if he were to be found out, he'd be chased to the ends of the world and be killed.

This was also why every member who joined concealed their identity, and even the few leaders of the organisation had no idea of the real identities of their members.

“Alright! Collect your own share! Remember not to squander them quickly. It's better to spend them only after some time!”

“Also, after this mission, those mad dogs from the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower will definitely go around biting people blindly in a rouse to find our locations. So remember to stay low...”

Giant who was wrapped in green fog continued to explain of some matters as he waved his hands, “It's alright now, you guys can leave. Our exchange meetings must also be halted for a while, as for the concrete details it will be made known again...”

.....

Baldy Venom Snake had had half of his face melted and the other side filled with many bumps. He was continuously combing through the black forest.

And, with a big black boa lay coiled on his body, he presented a rather horrifying appearance.

Bang!

Suddenly, Baldy's face changed as he rolled to the side.

At the same time, an explosion caved in the ground on which he had previously stood. A purple flame blazed in the surroundings, creating a hundred square meter radius of charred zone.

“Blood Rogue! It must be you! Get your ass out here!” Baldy Venom Snake snarled.

A layer of stiff hair grew on his body, altering his appearance to that of a gorilla.

What he received in answer were multiple fireballs that appeared from within the shadows.

Boom!

The speed of the black fireballs was incredibly quick. Before he even had the chance to react, they had reached his body and exploded in front of him.

The bald Venom Snake's chest was charred. Black hair kept falling off, and the pit of his stomach was hollowed in. There was even the piercing sound of bones breaking, and his body flew out as if he had been hit by the head of a train.

The boa that had been hung around his shoulders was

immediately burnt by the flames, turning into white ashes, scattering onto the floor bit by bit.

“Such a mighty spell?” The bald Venom Snake did not even have time to lament for his precious pet. He was frightened silly by Leylin’s Latent Fireball.

“This spell has to be a model that is modified by various large Magi organisation or had its might amplified. Who exactly are you?”

Venom Snake looked at Leylin who slowly walked out from the darkness, suspicions streaked across his face.

“Who I am is not important. What’s important is that you will definitely die here today!” Leylin had even used his Latent Fireball, so naturally he revealed the determination to kill this baldy.

“Aren’t you afraid of the organisation tracing it to you?”

Venom Snake lay on the floor as if he had lost his mobility and was not able to get up.

“I have only signed a contract not to divulge the organisation’s secrets, but not one that doesn’t allow me to pursue a personal vendetta against my enemies!”

Leylin waved his hands forward and countless phantom hands appeared from the void, grabbing a small tree behind the baldy and

crushing it to pieces. A yellow bug was retrieved from within the tree.

Pu! The yellow bug was smashed into bits in Leylin's hands.

“Don't do such useless things anymore!” Leylin stepped in closer.

“You're leaving me with no choice! Second transfiguration!” The baldy bellowed.

Crash! In the blink of an eye, the muscles on his body grew and dense black hair grew out once again. Behind his back, two strips of flesh constantly raised, bursting out of his clothes. They turned into two furry claws.

His teeth became sharp, eyeballs completely red.

From the looks of it, he had turned into a mutated gorilla with four arms.

With the transformation of the bald Venom Snake, a strong energy wave was constantly emitted from his body.

“Activate!” Against this creature which was brandishing its fangs and claws, Leylin only smiled and chanted an incantation.

“Ding!” A crisp noise sounded and several green vines and muddy shafts emerged from the ground, turning into a prison like shape,

suppressing the beast within.

“I gave you time not to let you prepare a spell, but for me to lay a trap!”

Leylin spoke leisurely, “You must have had the limbs of a powerful creature transplanted into your body to achieve such a transfiguration, huh? Moreover, it seems to be compatible with your innate defense spell...”

“A pity however that you only transplanted the forelimbs of the Vajra Gorilla. As for creatures like these, they are suppressed by the energy particles of the Earth and Plant elements...”

All this were naturally the simulations done throughout the battle by the A.I. Chip.

After adopting the A.I. Chip’s suggestion Leylin completely controlled the pace of the battle. He had to admit that it all felt pretty good.

“Urghhh...” The gorilla creature in the cage continued to beat on its chest, showing the rage it was in.

Following which, many small plants and rock spears appeared from the ground within the cage, piercing through the creature’s body.

“Aooo...” The gorilla continued to roar in anguish, as his entire

fur coat was dyed a crimson red.

Bang! A large explosion sounded.

Only two furry arms remained where the black gorilla had been, and the bald Venom Snake had disappeared without a trace.

Looking at this scene, Leylin was not surprised but smiled in a satisfied manner.

“He had even used the substitution spell that can only be used once a day?”

Following which, the sound of a spirit explosion was heard. The trees parted and the old witch carried Venom Snake who had fainted in her hands.

“How is it? Is it still going smoothly?” Leylin inquired.

“Not bad. There was still an amulet on his body limited to a one-time usage that caught me by surprise!” The old witch’s green eyes shone.

“This is a good opportunity since an official Magus’ spirit is extremely difficult to obtain!”

“Also, you’ll get half of the items here and I’ll take the other half!” Leylin had already gone through the bald Venom Snake’s

belongings from his crippled body. In addition, He gave half of Venom Snake's sack of loot to the old witch.

He was still prepared to maintain the trust between the two of them since they were going to be collaborating for a long time.

The old witch's gaze revealed some fear while she looked at Leylin. Even though she was confident she could defeat the bald Venom Snake, she wouldn't be able to do it so easily, and definitely not in this place. Such precise pre-calculations were beyond her.

Leylin was even able to predict the opponent's escape route, and that was what shocked her the most.

"But by killing Venom Snake, aren't you afraid the organisation will..." The old witch reminded him.

"Stop trying to scare me!" Leylin laughed, not at all bothered.

"Dark Magi are just a group of indifferent, self-serving people. Why would they seek trouble with me for a dead person? Furthermore, the grudge I had with Venom Snake was apparent to the others, so who could say anything about it?"

"It seems like you have already planned everything!" The old witch looked at Leylin, her expression complicated.

Leylin smiled without a reply.

It was indeed true that he had planned to kill Venom Snake a long time ago.

There were two motives behind it. First was to establish his might! He was a newbie who had just joined the organisation, so he would definitely undergo some suppression by others. In many organisations, the bullying newbies was a form of tradition. Through such means, Leylin could quickly show his prowess as a deterrence and to protect himself.

Of course, he only dared to do such a thing within dark Magi organisations. If it were inside a light Magi organisation, no matter how powerful he was he would be beaten heavily. Who knows if he might even take the rap and be labelled as someone who had tried to sow discord amongst the unity of the light Magi?

As a result, while he was in Four Seasons Garden, Leylin had always kept a low profile and did his work without any complaints. Until now, his leader and teammates still viewed him in a positive light.

As for the second motive — which was Leylin's main objective — it was only for the benefits!

From today's operation of plundering the secret plane, Leylin managed to obtain five to six hundred thousand magic crystals. On top of that, he had also gotten Venom Snake's portion, and the total value came up to around a million, thus doubling his loot.

Wasn't Leylin's reason for joining a dark Magi organisation to obtain enough resources? Since that was his reason, why wouldn't he attack others?

Chapter 168: In Retrospect

Of course, even within dark Magi organisations, there were rules and regulations.

If Leylin kept doing this, it would result in others ganging up on him and eliminating him under the pretext of self-defense.

That was why Leylin needed to first cause some conflict, and then be able to act with a good reason to do so.

Honestly speaking, even if Venom Snake had not challenged him, he was also planning on instigating some of the weaker Magi and then blow the whole thing out of proportion.

Afterwards, he would use revenge as an excuse to righteously kill and then seize their treasures!

But that was it.

Leylin assessed that after this affair, other dark Magi would be slightly dissatisfied with his actions, so he couldn't let this get too far.

“You're really...” The old witch was suddenly regretful, “I haven't seen a youngster that's as cool headed but also crazy in a very long time...”

“Nope! I’m just someone with the will to live!” Leylin said with a brilliant smile.

“What about you? When will you get your goods?”

The moment this was brought up, the old witch’s face stiffened. This was the only reason why she was working with Leylin and had been dragged along in the end.

“Today’s harvest was pretty good, especially since we got two souls from official Magi. It shouldn’t take long before we can finalize the product!”

“Notify me once it’s finished, I’ll be at Nightless City these few days!” Leylin nodded.

Following which, he approached the bald Venom Snake and undid the concealment spell, revealing the face of a middle aged man that had a venerable countenance.

“It’s him!” The old witch cried out in alarm from behind him.

“You know him?” This aroused Leylin’s interest.

“No, I’ve only seen him a couple of times!” The old witch appeared rather rueful.

“He’s the head of a small light Magi faction, and he’s got a good

reputation! Apparently, he's quite skilled in transformation spells. I didn't know he was actually a dark Magus!"

"This is quite normal! Dark Magi like to assume a righteous personality, just like you and me!"

Leylin's silhouette melted into the darkness...

In the following days. Leylin lived a very pleasant life in Nightless City.

It couldn't be denied that Nightless City was an unusually large Magi City, in which Leylin was able to enjoy all kinds of services tailored for a Magus' pleasure.

Splash! Boiling tea water flowed out of an exquisite silver teapot into a tea cup engraved with purple flowery designs. A rich fragrance of black tea permeated the air of the whole lounge as it wafted back and forth.

Leylin sat in an armchair to the side with a serene expression. Behind him and under each of his legs were beautiful maids in revealing clothing who were extending their lily white and seemingly boneless small hands to massage him all over his body.

"How is it? The skills of maids are quite good, right? Want me to gift you a couple..."

A red-haired old Magus, who was standing to one side, was saying

as he directed another maid to feed him grapes. Around him were a number of maids who waited upon him like he was a god.

“Don’t blame me for saying this Leylin, but your villa is much too simple. It doesn’t even have a guard dog! You’ll be the laughing stock for other Magi if you don’t do anything about this...”

Crew was squinting his eyes. His face revealed an expression of rapture.

“Stop trying to sell me your maids!” Leylin revealed a bitter laugh, “But you must know a lot of merchants in this field, right? You should introduce them to me someday!”

Leylin admitted that it was strange for there not to be a single person in the whole villa. Besides, he felt that he did need some people to help around while he lived in Nightless City, such as servants and the like.

“No problem! I’ll take you to Nightless City’s slave market tomorrow. Once you’re there, all your needs will be satisfied. Besides, there are even slaves from other races!”

Crew revealed an expression that said ‘I’m glad you came to your senses’. When he mentioned different races, a lewd smile was revealed on his old face.

Seeing the expression of this old pervert, Leylin was speechless.

He conveniently grabbed something that looked like a newspaper from the table and was immediately attracted by the eye-catching title.

“Ennea Ivory Ring Tower’s division under attack! Severe losses!”

“Tragedy! Dark Magi attack the Tallinn Highlands. All Magi present have perished!”

“It’s a declaration of war! The dark Magi have initiated the third great Magi war. What are you going to do? Please listen in detail to the analysis by our special guest, Nicholas Kajitel...”

Scenes of the havoc that Leylin and the others had wreaked were splashed all over the headlines.

In addition, all of the reports came had very eye-catching headings, and some even exaggerated to say that this was provocation from the dark Magi and a forewarning that there were plans to begin the third Magi war.

“Look at this! All they’ve been reporting these days is about that incident. The Ennea Ivory Ring Tower really suffered a massive loss, this time, worth at least a hundred million magic crystals...”

Crew looked to be rejoicing at their misfortune, and Leylin briefly wondered if there was some history between Crew and the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

“Tsk! A hundred million crystals! What wouldn’t I do to get those many crystals?”

Leylin, too, had an expression of obsessive desire on his face, “But these dark Magi are really quite daring to even provoke the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower!”

Leylin’s facial expressions and movements were flawless as if he really had no knowledge of the incident.

“Sigh... This has happened multiple times in the past, just that nobody can tell whether it’s the Night Crows or the Zombies,” Crew continued.

The Night Crows and Zombies were dark Magi organisations that operated in the shadows of Nightless City. Before Leylin’s arrival, both groups were infamous for having committed several huge crimes with ruthless methods.

The dark Magi organisation that Leylin was a part of was not either of these groups but another —it was called the Thousand Meddling Leaves — though they were just as notorious.

“With Ennea Ivory Ring Tower’s Magi enforcers and help from Nightless City, it should be possible to capture those bold dark Magi, right?”

“I’m afraid that’s not possible!”

Crew shook his head immediately. “The powers backing the dark Magi aren’t to be trifled with. Magi specializing in divination have had their spells achieve no effect, and we suspect that there’s at least a rank 2 Magus backing and giving them orders. We believe there might be even more than one of them...”

“I see.”

Leylin nodded, his expression turning to one of longing.

“A rank 2 Magus! I wonder if I’ll ever reach that level in this lifetime.”

His look made Crew’s expression darken slightly.

Leylin was young and still had hope to achieve that.

But he was different. After consuming a large part of his lifespan, his body’s vitality could no longer withstand the strain from another advancement. Furthermore, he had chosen the simplest route and broken through with the Grime Water, increasing the difficulty of breaking through to the next rank.

“Oh! My apologies!”

Upon noticing Crew’s expression, Leylin gave a bow in apology.

“Don’t worry about it. I just got nostalgic about some events in

the past.” The desolate look in his eyes faded away. “Thinking back to my decision then, I’ve missed too many opportunities. If given the chance to relive my life, I think I’d still choose to sign that contract, though.”

Leylin understood his train of thought.

For many acolytes, even if they were aware of the existence of high-grade meditation techniques, they had no choice but to break through with the Grime Water.

After all, only strictly-managed Magi organisations and large Families held possession of high-grade meditation techniques. Typically, level 3 acolytes had no social connections nor any strong background, and it was basically impossible for them to obtain those techniques.

Hence, they would rather use the Grime Water and break through, and hope that after they advanced to an official Magus, they could find a way to make up for the disadvantages of this method.

However, even if there was such a method, it was not something any ordinary Magus could come into contact with. It might not even exist in the entire South Coast, and was more likely to be found only in the central continent.

As a result, most Magi could only service their organisation for their entire life, and then retire, living aimlessly the way Crew was now doing.

“Alright! Enough about this mood-dampening topic. I’ll bring you to the slave market tomorrow to see a friend of mine. She has quite a few quality goods, like the snake girl from the previous time that remains fresh in my memories. You definitely can’t miss this chance!”

At this point, Crew’s mood seemed to have brightened.

Leylin kept Crew company and they chatted for a while, and he had an exceedingly alluring time and sumptuous dinner before leaving Crew’s villa.

Sssii!

At this moment, the pocket-sized diary trembled, letting off a slight glow.

“Leylin! I’ve already prepared what you wanted. When can you come over?” The old witch’s voice traveled to his ears from a green secret imprint.

“Give me a moment, I’m on my way!”

Leylin was delighted at the message, as the old witch’s efficiency was better than he had anticipated.

Elm Street #231. It wasn’t Leylin’s first time here.

The shop was located in a very remote area, and most Magi would not be able to find their way here.

After Leylin entered, the old witch closed the door and hung a sign that read “Closed”.

Leylin, unconvinced by this level of security, set up a sound-proofing spell around them.

“Rumours have been flying recently. How is it on your end? Have you been discovered at all?” Leylin asked, somewhat worried.

“Don’t worry. I’ve lived in Nightless City for over a century, and I do have some contacts...” She seemed rather pleased with herself.

“Also, these are the materials that were mentioned in the contract. I processed them using the method in the information you gave me! I did everything perfectly!”

The old witch positioned a dozen crystal soul spheres in the size of a thumb in a row, and placed it on the counter.

Within the soul, sphere were tens of expressionless spirits that seemed on the verge of dissipating. At the moment, many of them had lost their human form, which must have happened after brutal, inhuman torture.

“Has it really all been dealt with? The spirits need to have been immersed and soaked in immense suffering and hopelessness in order to achieve the best effect!”

“Hehe... I even captured a few spirits and experimented on them beforehand. On top of the basic pain that I can inflict, I also tortured their very souls. The effects are marvellous!” The old witch laughed excitedly, though it was a sound that caused others goosebumps.

Chapter 169: Tears Of Mary

“Hm! The result appears to be not too bad! You can try increasing the quantity the next time round!”

A ball of milky white light emitted from Leylin’s hand, as it scanned across the many confining spirit spheres on the table, before Leylin gave a smile of satisfaction.

“Alright! I will bring these with me then. I will bring your medicine back at the earliest period of 10 days to latest 15 days!” Leylin made his promise.

“I would naturally believe you, after all we are under the constraints of the Trial’s Eye and signed an unbreakable pledge...” Though the old witch looked as though she trusted Leylin, Leylin still felt the mistrust in her heart.

However, this was not an unusual situation.

After this deal was successful, her amount of distrust will drop tremendously and the connection with benefits between both parties would also be closer.

After leaving the old witch’s small inn, Leylin hurriedly headed back to his villa.

It had been a while since his spiritual force had a great increase,

so now he couldn't wait to attempt and brew the Tears of Mary, once again enjoying that delight of experiencing a huge boost in the spiritual force.

After activating the entire defense formation, Leylin went to the room at the ground floor of the villa by himself.

This place had undergone remodelling and things were now in order. At the lowest level was an area for experimenting with spells, which had absorption runes for reinforcement at the four corners.

As for the secret room situated at a corner, it had already underwent a special reformation to become a Potioneering lab, and contained all of the various high grade apparatus.

Clearly, for these things to be obtainable, Leylin had used his relationship with the old witch, with the resources he had seized to purchase and exchange for them.

Otherwise, with his current financial resources, even if he were to brew potions every day, it would take him more than 2 years to purchase all of the apparatuses.

After all, he could not possibly use all his magic crystals for building his laboratory as he would need some for his daily expenses and other necessities.

And from the previous time, with the haul from the plunder, the

laboratory was built from scratch.

“A.I. Chip!” Leylin made a command in his heart.

[Beginning brewing of the Tears of Mary! Obtaining administrative rights from the Host to monitor the whole process and make informed reminders. Beginning to coordinate with Host’s spiritual force energy waves...]

The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

.....

“Let’s begin!” Leylin took a deep breath and picked up a confining spirit sphere which had a spirit sealed within in.

In the blink of an eye, it was the dawn of the second day.

Leylin gasped for air and sweat dripped down his face continuously. However, his vigour was brimming with energy as he smiled and fixed his eyes on the transparent liquid he held in his hand.

The test-tube was made from nitrogen crystal glass and was extremely strong. It even had the effect of extending the expiry of the medicinal properties. Hence they were always stored by Magi and only used for important potions.

Looking at the crystal clear and transparent potion, a look of dejection appeared on Leylin's face.

Thinking back, it had been 3 to 4 years since he took the potion formula from his mentor, Kroft.

He managed to brew a dose for the Azure Potion soon after it was given to him, yet there was no progress in brewing the Tears of Mary. He only managed to simplify some of the processes and brew the Blood Vengeance Potion. However, it was only useful for acolytes.

Right now, he held this potion which was a final product completely based on the ancient formula! It had a tremendous effect even in breaking through the spiritual force bottlenecks of ancient Magi.

“Besides, the success rate is not too bad!”

Leylin looked at the 3 broken confining spirit sphere on the floor, and his face revealed a pleased look.

In the final stage of the brewing process, he specially added a few steps which required the use of the A.I. Chip. It was not only successful in the restoration of the formula, but also increased the rate of success in brewing. Surprisingly, the success rate hit an astonishing 30 to 40%!

In other words, the 16 confining spirit spheres he received from

the old witch could be used to configure 5-6 portions of this finished product.

This discovery made Leylin feel extremely happy.

After all, the origin of the ingredients of these potion were extremely savage, and it was not easy to obtain. Hence, he wanted to increase the success rate.

Due to the restraints from the Trial's Eye, he had to abide by the agreement and give forty percent of it to the old witch.

Although this percentage was rather high, Leylin considered them to be worth it.

The old witch was also under the restraints of the Trial's Eye. Once she was caught, she could not reveal any news of Leylin at all, hence he would be absolved from all risks.

“A.I. Chip, what is the result of the analysis of the medicinal properties of this potion?”

Leylin looked at the test-tube in his hands and suddenly asked.

[Beep! It has been completed, the medicinal properties has been recorded and stored in the data bank.] [Ancient potion — Tears of Mary. Original ingredients: Powerful spirits filled with grievances and despair. Effect: Great increase for an official Magus's spiritual force, and a chance to helping a Magus breaking through a

bottleneck.]

The A.I. Chip's analysis was extremely concrete. And the last few words it uttered, led Leylin into deep thoughts.

In the Magus World, potions which could directly increase the spiritual force was extremely exorbitant.

Just like the exchange point in the Four Seasons Garden, the prices of several potions which could increase the spiritual force was even above that for the crystallised elemental energy particles.

Compared the spiritual force potions, potions which could aid a Magus in breaking through the bottleneck was even a tier higher.

Even though the chance of Tears of Mary which could aid the breakthrough was extremely little, it would cause Magi to go crazy after it.

“It seems like this effect has to be concealed. Since I already have a contract with Old Devil, she would not be able to reveal any news of the potions to outsiders, so I can rest my worry for the time being...”

Leylin withdrew a golden watch that was decorated with diamonds.

“It's still early now, and I have an appointment for lunch with Crew only in the afternoon. I can even try the effect of the potion

now!”

Leylin took the transparent dose of potion and went into the spell testing area below the experiment lab and sat in a cross-legged position.

“Activate!”

Leylin chanted an incantation. Soon after, the nitrogen glass test-tube seem to open like a flower engraving, revealing the potion liquid within.

A rather bland and sweet smell which seemed to be able to induce sleep and hypnosis began to envelop the room.

.....

Under the effect of this fragrance, Leylin entered the meditative state in an instant...

While doing his meditation, Leylin felt as if his spirit had calmed down and floated on the clouds, enveloping the sun. This extremely harmonious and serene feeling flowed through his thoughts.

“What a pleasant experience!” Leylin opened his eyes after an unknown period of time.

Meditation was a physically taxing activity for Magi, and many would often choose to enter a deep sleep right after. This was to make up for the consumption of vitality during the process.

This effect would be even more apparent when a meditation technique was of a higher grade.

Compared to before, even if Leylin's vitality was 8.5, after the meditation of the Kemoyin's Pupil every day, he would feel extremely exhausted and could not wait to fall asleep immediately.

As for today, after a round of meditation technique, he felt extremely comfortable in every part of his body. His spiritual force was extremely robust, and his condition in a state that was difficult to enter again.

This was an indescribable feeling, as if ripping off a layer of the nature, everything to his senses was extremely distinct. It also felt like someone who always had been in darkness suddenly seeing the light.

“This feeling is just awesome!”

Leylin grinned.

At this moment, he realised two warm streaks of moisture flowed down his face.

“These are... tears!”

“With the current control of my physical body and the help of the A.I. Chip, I actually teared unknowingly...” A look of admiration appeared on Leylin’s face, “The effects of these ancient potions has far surpassed my expectations!”

Only at this moment did he consider to check his stats.

During the meditation, the A.I. Chip showed a stream of data, but Leylin was able to look at this data only now.

[Ancient potion — Tears of Mary assimilation in progress!] [Due to the effects of the potion, quality of meditation increases, spiritual force increased by 0.5] [Due to the effects of the potion, quality of meditation increases, spiritual force increased by 1.0] [Ancient potion — Tears of Mary reaching threshold, Host’s spiritual force greatly increasing...] [Kemoyin’s Pupil’s meditation technique completed, huge boost in Host’s spiritual force, recalculating data...]

After which, the A.I. Chip reloaded Leylin’s statistics.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 36.8, Magic Power: 36 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 35%. Status: Healthy]

“7 points! One portion of Tears of Mary actually directly increased my spiritual force by 7 points!”

Leylin could not conceal the excitement on his face.

“That means that even if my body develops a resistance to the potion in the future, I can still quickly increase my spiritual force so that it meets the requirements to break through to a rank 2 Magus?”

“Also, I can use the crystallised Darkness energy particles that I’ve been collecting again!”

The stats of a Magus were all intercorrelated.

Previously, Leylin’s spiritual force and concentration of bloodline was enough, yet the elemental essence conversion was lacking. Hence he could use the Darkness crystals to fill in the gap and achieve a 35% elemental essence conversion. However, after that time, Leylin’s elemental essence conversion was enough, but his spiritual force was lacking instead. Hence, according to the A.I. Chip’s estimations, before his spiritual force reaches certain value, using the crystallised Darkness energy particles would render no effect.

Hence, the 500g of crystallised Darkness energy particles he took from the old witch previously, with the amount he exchanged at the Four Seasons Garden had been kept aside by him.

Chapter 170: Princess Of A Vanquished Nation

Noon came shortly after, and Leylin took a shower with a happy mood. He donned a set of comfortable white robes and went to Crew's villa.

“Welcome, Leylin! My dearest friend!”

Crew gave Leylin a hug, looking somewhat bewildered.

“Your aura seemed to have increased again, it really makes people envious!”

Previously, he had already been astonished by Leylin's age and potential. Towards a Magus who had such unlimited potential, establishing connections beforehand would often reap unexpected benefits.

However, Leylin's rate of improvement far exceeded his expectations.

“This is just the result of a successful experiment!” Leylin gave a modest laugh.

In truth, this was the result after Leylin had used concealment spell to hide most of his spiritual force. If not, with Crew's

intelligence, he would definitely be able to guess at something.

Crew did not buy Leylin's humble words, but the aspect of spiritual force was always among the most guarded secrets of Magi, so any prying would result in hostility.

Hence, Crew could only amicably smile and hold Leylin's hand.

“Let's not talk about this anymore. Come, let us go to the slave market!”

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The slave market was in Zone 4 of the Nightless City and took up a very large area. Moreover, it was overt, even having a signboard.

“Lord! Come to us, we have various types of slaves. There are even two snake girls from eastern mountain deserts, and their skills are top notch, you know!”

“Lord! Look over here, beautiful rabbit girls, fiery fox tribes. There are also beauties from the cannes tribe, with incredible strength comparable to Grand Knights. They are extremely good looking and long lasting. Moreover, they only cost 800 magic crystals each...”

“Look here quickly, this is the princess of the Dirk Dukedom! Her bloodline is extremely royal. The Dirk Dukedom is a dukedom comparable to kingdoms

There were many shops in this slave market, hence, to attract people over to their stores, these shops had all kinds of gimmicks.

Leylin walked alongside Crew as he listened to the various calls of the shop owners.

The provocative rabbit girls and fox girls revealed a large amount of skin, only having on a few pieces of clothing the size of a palm to cover their private parts. Their fluffy white rabbit tails and fiery red fox tails were bunched together. It was an extremely sharp contrast to the shy expressions of those rabbit and fox girls.

“How is it, sir? Do you want to take a look at this princess’ figure?”

Crew was obviously interested in the slave that was referred to as a princess. He made a stop in front of that shop.

Leylin was judging the girl behind the shop owner. She was tall, her pupils were golden, and she emanated an extremely noble aura. This was something that definitely could not be imitated, and had to have been developed from a young age.

This beautiful young lady was wearing a gown that one would usually see at a palace banquet, and she was even wearing a diamond-encrusted tiara, as if she was a princess who had ran out to play—that is, if you didn’t consider the blank and resigned expression on her face.

“She’s quite a beauty!” A look of desire appeared on Crew’s face. “Now that I think about it, even though I’ve played with tons of women, I don’t think I’ve ever trained a princess before!”

“This is definitely a genuine princess. Her father was the former Duke!”

The shop owner was extremely eager to market his goods. “Moreover, this woman has not suffered any violations of the body, and is a complete virgin...”

“Dirk Dukedom, I seem to have heard of its past. A coup d’etat occurred, right?” Crew stroked his chin and pondered. “It better not have any leftover troubles!”

“No way, no way! The previous duke wanted to control his own forces, and broke all ties with magicians. He had already been forsaken by the Magus family backing him, and in reality, this coup d’etat was orchestrated by that Magus family...”

The shop owner explained to Crew in detail.

Leylin noticed that after that princess heard of the events, her head was bowed. Fear and hatred began to show on her face.

Although this expression lasted for but a moment and was concealed well by her, how could it have been missed by the magicians present?

“Not bad! Does she have a fierce personality? Challenging... I like her.” Crew was immediately aroused by her, and asked, “Tell me directly! How much?”

“Two thousand magic crystals! That’s the lowest price I can give you!” The shop owner answered confidently.

“Two thousand magic crystals!!!” Crew’s eyes bulged. “Just for a regular human who isn’t even a knight? Do you think I was kicked in the head by a donkey as a child?”

“This is a unique situation! I only managed to get this princess at a great cost, and you can only find her in this shop in the Nightless City! Other princesses all have Magus families backing them, and goods like this are only available now. Whether you’ll be able to get your hands on someone like her in the future will depend on your luck...”

The shop owner expended a huge effort on convincing him.

“Two thousand magic crystals is much too expensive! It’s enough to fund a few of my large-scale experiments!” Crew helplessly shook his head.

He turned to Leylin. “Sorry for the wait. Let’s go!”

Leylin shrugged and ignored that princess of a ruined dukedom, walking out of the shop alongside Crew.

“I was sure that you would insist on buying her, but now...” Leylin was somewhat shocked. He had seen firsthand Crew’s pervertedness and fetishes, so he could not believe that Crew would give up this easily.

“You don’t know...” Crew blinked, his face revealing a smirk and a clever look.

“This slave’s price tag is too expensive. As long as they’re not magicians who are desperately in need, she will never be considered by anyone.” The old geezer explained to Leylin.

Official Magi always required resources. Unlike Crew, who had no more hope of advancing anymore, was extremely lecherous, and only wanted to live in retirement, they would never have any interest in such kinds of slaves.

“I have several ties with the magicians in this kind of circle. As long as I notify them, nobody would snatch her from me!”

“Hehe... By then, this shop owner will only be able to hold this stock in his hands. Later, when I look for him again, I will be the only one to whom he can sell the slave. I am confident that I can haggle the price down to a thousand magic crystals or below...”

“Then what reason have you prepared to convince your friends?” Leylin asked in curiosity.

“Hehe... Of course, such a collaboration to push down prices would be done in turns!” The old geezer did not hesitate to reply.

“If you have any interest in her, then after I’m done with her, I can lend her to you to toy around with for a few days!”

The old geezer seemed extremely generous at this moment.

“No one can surpass your skills in such an area...” Leylin felt as if he was utterly defeated, and no longer knew what to say.

After which, Leylin, who had been following Crew, finally approached a shop that seemed slightly strange.

This shop was obviously a lot larger than the surrounding shops, and there were also two green, magically summoned creatures standing guard. Just by the presence and the construction costs of this shop, the value of the other shops were immediately lessened.

In addition, there was a thick curtain draped in front of the door, and one could not see anything inside unless they lifted the fabric. This heightened the curiosity of the Magi.

“We’re here! This is the slave market that my friend opened!” Crew gave a series of passwords in a practised manner, and received permission to pass from the two magically summoned creatures.

“This is only open to members, and members can only bring one

regular customer. The requirements are stringent, but it's only at this sort of place that you'll be able to get lots of great goods!"

Crew obviously had a mountain of experience, and he brought Leylin into an office.

"Lucia, my friend! I have brought you business!"

What exceeded Leylin's expectations was that this slave trader Lucia was, in fact, a female magician.

She wore robes with a high collar, yet a small heart shape was cut out at her bosom area, revealing deep cleavage.

"Crew! Have you grown sick of the snake girl from before?"

Lucia bowed at her slender waist and greeted Crew, quickly retreating back.

Looking at Crew, who wanted to take some liberties with Lucia, but was also embarrassed, Leylin rubbed his nose in shame.

He had a feeling that he could have been ripped off by this lecherous old geezer.

"Is this the customer that you have brought?"

Lucia gave a slow smile as she advanced, and Leylin's nose was filled with a very concentrated smell of perfume. While strong, it did not repulse him, but was rather like a strong drink that made men brim with the desire to explore further.

“What a handsome fellow!”

Lucia chuckled and gave Leylin a tight hug, her two large, satiny lumps of softness pressing directly against Leylin's chest, and giving rise to a passion within.

“Young Magus, what kind of slave are you looking for? Fox girls, rabbit girls, or snake girls? Sister has everything here, and can even give you a discount!”

The beautiful slave owner with a provocative figure blew against Leylin's ear as she whispered in a low voice.

“This... I apologise!”

Leylin gently pushed Lucia away, causing Crew to roll his eyes at him and Lucia to coquettishly laugh. “Oh my! Looks like our customer got embarrassed!”

“It is really your hospitality that makes it hard to breathe!” Leylin bowed and kissed Lucia on the back of her slender and pale palm, before receiving a jealous look from Crew.

It was not that he could not contain his urges, but that this

beautiful slave trader was also a rank 1 Magus! Moreover, according the A.I. Chip's detection, her elemental essence conversion was at least 50%!

Although Leylin was rather aroused, he did not want to have a knife stabbed in his back while bedding this woman. Moreover, how could a female slave trader be a simple character!

“Actually, my reason for coming here is to purchase a few special slaves!” Leylin made his request.

Once the official matter was raised, Lucia put on a serious face.

Chapter 171: Magician Slaves

“No problem, we have the largest warehouse. As long as you make a request, we’ll immediately find a compatible slave for you!”

Lucia stated with confidence.

“Also, even if we don’t have it here, as long as you pay enough deposit, we can even organise a team to catch slaves and train them and teach them, customising them to your needs...”

Such a business model and industrialised chain of processes, also the special service provided for esteemed guests led Leylin to recall the VIP statuses back in his previous world.

“No need for that, my requirements are extremely simple!”

Leylin smiled, “First of all, it’s 5 slaves with the strength of Grand Knights. The race is to be humans, gender is unimportant. I need those with intact intelligence with no obvious flaw or damage on their bodies...”

He did lack a few workers in his villa to do odd jobs and maintain his image.

Furthermore, it was impossible for Leylin to take care of all miscellaneous tasks by himself.

Deep inside Leylin's heart, he also had another plan. He had received one portion of resources for the Branded Swordsman from his trade with Dorotte. Even though it was incomplete and virtually impossible to break through with those materials, with the A.I. Chip's deduction and Leylin's own experiments, he had also garnered some results.

At the moment, he was thinking of trying out the fruits of his labour on a Grand Knight.

These Grand Knight slaves would definitely have spirit seeds planted or some form of branding that would ensure they were 100% loyal. Their bodies were extremely strong as well and were the best people to experiment on to become Branded Swordsmen.

"We have five Grand Knights here, you may pick them later. Each one will cost 700 magic crystals. Moreover, your big sister I will give you a discount. Amongst the 5 Grand Knights, there would be two beauties!"

Lucia smiled. "I believe that apart from their duty as guards, they will definitely fulfill the other 'duties' as well!"

For Magi whose vitality surpasses that of normal humans, normal girls would not be able to satisfy their needs. Hence, cultivating some Knights and Grand Knights as maidservants was a common practice. Hence Lucia did not lack any goods in this aspect.

Towards such a benefit, Leylin only nodded his head, not feeling

anything special.

The Grand Knights were only a small matter. Leylin immediately stated his true purpose of coming here.

“And then, I require an acolyte grade slave, it’s best if the strength is of a level 3 acolyte! Also, they have to know simple Potioneering and alchemy!”

At this point, Lucia no longer had a relaxed expression. Even Crew looked at Leylin in surprise.

In the Magus World, there were many tiers for slaves. Maidservants who have been nurtured, princesses or female nobles whose countries have been destroyed only belonged to the lowest tier of entertainment and consumption. Apart from the special cases of princesses and the likes, their prices were all extremely low.

Further up, it would be the level of Knights and Grand Knights who could be of use to their owners. The increase in expenditure was not small. If they also wanted slaves from different races of a beautiful slave, the prices would often be taken up another notch.

However, none of them could be considered high-grade slaves.

In the south coast, there was only one type of slave that was considered to be high-grade. They were the magician slaves!

Whether regular humans or knights or Grand Knights, their bodies were unable to resist the energy pollution that Magi unwittingly emitted. In addition, they did not have any spiritual force to defend their Magus masters, nor help out with spell formations and the like.

Hence, upon advancing to an official Magus, many would usually recruit a few acolytes to assist them in their own experiments.

However, on the south coast, some things still had to be adhered to. Even if one was in Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, the mentors could not use the acolytes as their guinea pigs and experiment on them as they wished, and had to tempt them with magic crystals or swindle them into a contract.

Rather than using the pampered acolytes, using slaves could solve this problem entirely.

Due to the existence of a spirit brand, slaves were typically loyal to a fault. In addition, the moment that a master buys them, their lives would immediately belong to their master's. No matter how the Magi experimented on the slaves, they would not cause any trouble!

“Handsome fellow, you’re quite gutsy!”

Lucia seemed quite bewildered as she looked at Leylin. “Level 3 acolytes aren’t that cheap!”

“Does that mean you have them?”

Leylin picked at his eyebrow.

The origin of magicians slaves was quite simple. They were either wanted criminals or captives after a war.

In addition, their existence was not the most welcome, and even in Poolfield Kingdom’s Ellinel Market, Leylin did not see any shop that dared to publicly sell acolyte slaves.

Leylin had only asked without expecting for there to be any results and had met with an unexpected surprise.

Nightless City was the entire South Coast’s main trading centre! To think that it was possible to find high-grade slaves in a random slave shop!

“Don’t worry. As long as you can find someone, the price isn’t an issue!”

Leylin threw a black pouch to Lucia.

“I didn’t think a little guy like you has magic crystals!” Lucia checked the contents of the pouch and nodded, immediately ringing a red hand-bell on the table.

Ding-ling-ling!

With the ring of the bell, a maidservant pushed open the door, “My Lady! Do you have any orders?”

“Go bring Damien here!” In front of her servants, Lucia put on a frosty expression with no traces of smiles. Her every movement was filled with a domineering aura.

As for this maidservant, she did not even dare raise her head in front of Lucia’s orders and hurriedly led the room.

“Come! First, have a taste of this ‘chugu’! This is a special product from the Sicily Islands!”

After the door was shut, Lucia resumed her enchanting demeanour and brought out a fiery red flask, pouring a drink that seemed to be a mix between coffee and chocolate, for Leylin and Crew.

Leylin took a sip and the mellow yet invigorating taste swirled in his throat.

“The taste is excellent! It’s rather similar to the Coco Fruit. Moreover, it had the effect of increasing vigour. If it can be popularised, it will definitely gain the attention of Magi!”

Leylin said indifferently.

“Lucia! You’re too much, how could you not give me several flasks of such great stuff!” Crew began to raise his loud.

“Young brother you have the foresight. I am preparing to open a new shop and promote this drink item as my brand item...” Lucia looked at Leylin in surprise, before smiling in an enchanting manner. “How about this, do you want to invest in this as well?”

“My apologies, I don’t have enough magic crystals. Especially after this round of purchasing slaves, I’m afraid I’d have to amass another fortune before considering such an investment...”

Leylin naturally refused such a suggestion.

As for Lucia, there was no disappointment on her face; it only seemed that she had asked on the spur of the moment.

“Lucia, why don’t you consider me?” Crew put on an eager expression.

“You?” Lucia looked at Crew with disdain, “A fellow who only knows how to throw magic crystals on women, I have no faith in you at all. 27 years ago, it was you who took my investment and...”

After Lucia talked about past events, Crew’s face reddened, and he kept his head down like a small boy who had done something wrong.

As for Leylin, he only cared about sipping his drink, pretending

not to see or hear anything.

“My Lady! May I come in?”

This atmosphere was quickly broken by a request to enter the room.

“Is it Damien? Come in!” Lucia smoothed her hair and sat behind her desk once more.

Creak! The door to the office opened, and a silver-haired level 3 acolyte entered.

This acolyte was not young, and his face was wrinkled like the skin of a tangerine. In contrast, his clothes were neat and tidy, and not a single hair was out of place. He seemed to be in good spirits, looking nothing like a slave.

“Damien! This is Magus Leylin, and he has expressed his desire to buy you. Now, he’ll ask you some questions.” Lucia pointed to Leylin, who was seated on a sofa at the side, and introduced Damien to him.

“It is my honour to meet you, my lord! I hope I am able to service you in the future!” Damien bowed respectfully.

“You don’t have to be so polite! I hope you’ll meet my requirements too!” Leylin looked undisturbed.

“In that case, if you blend the liquefied form of a Sun Flower and the stem of a Three Night Flower, what will happen?” Leylin asked a question related to Potioneering without any second thoughts.

“There will be a substitution reflect, and it will produce...” From the looks of it, this old geezer called Damien did have some attainments in Potioneering. He only needed to think for a short while, before fluently answering.

Next, Leylin asked a series of other questions.

At the beginning, Damien’s expression was relaxed, but as they got further along, cold sweat started to form on his back.

A little over ten minutes later, Leylin stood up, feeling satisfied, and told Lucia, “I want him. How many magic crystals?”

Through the little test that he had just conducted, Leylin concluded that Damien’s attainments in Potioneering and alchemy were definitely considered pretty good amongst acolytes who were in the same tier as him. It would definitely be worth it to buy him.

“16500 magic crystals!” Lucia smiled, “Adding on to those 5 Grand Knights, it amounts perfectly to 20000 magic crystals!”

“No way, this is too expensive! His age is already so high. Normally, acolytes only have a maximum lifespan of 150 years...”

As for Damien, he stood there quietly by the side, as if the person they were haggling over was not him.

After Leylin left Lucia's store with Crew, 6 more figures followed behind them.

There was Damien, and the other 5 Grand Knights. Amongst the Grand Knights, there were two good looking girls with sexy figures, who also didn't have any bulging muscles that destroyed their aesthetic beauty.

Chapter 172: One Year

After fiercely negotiating the price, Leylin finally cut the price down to eighteen thousand magic crystals and bought the slaves.

Furthermore, right in front of Lucia within the shop, Leylin used his own spirit brand and branded the six slaves' minds.

That meant from thereon, the fates of these slaves were all grasped within Leylin's palm.

Also, the nature of the soul brand was such that they had to be completely obedient to Leylin. Even if they were asked to kill themselves, they had to do so without a moment's thought!

One could go so far as to say that if Leylin felt a sudden urge, these slaves' brains could simply explode like a watermelon.

“Haha... I'll stop bothering you and be on my way then!”

Once they were on the street of their villas, Crew silently judged the two gorgeous female Knights behind Leylin with a mischievous twinkling in his eyes as they returned to their respective homes.

“That old geezer!” Leylin was speechless as he shook his head, before bringing the six slaves into his villa.

“This is my villa. You’ll be staying here from hereon, and you can choose your rooms in the back. Nobody is allowed into my bedroom and the basement! Understood?”

Leylin turned and swept his eyes over his six newly-bought slaves as he ordered.

“Understood, master!” The six of them split up and left.

“Damien, you stay behind!” Leylin stopped the level 3 acolyte.

“Master, do you have any more orders for me?” Damien questioned respectfully.

“From today onwards, you are the butler of this villa and will be in charge of managing this place when I’m not around. Also, regarding the villa’s defense spell formation, I’ll give you the authority to modify it. Your task is to tidy up the entire villa, and stock up on items needed for everyday use...”

Leylin began to give a series of instructions.

In a trading centre such as Nightless City where the Magi were in charge, there were many things that only a Magi could do. A typical Knight or Grand Knight didn’t have a sea of consciousness, so how could they even control their spiritual force, chant incantations and the like?

In order to maintain the operation of his villa even after Leylin

left, an acolyte-level butler was indispensable.

“Also, tell me how you became a slave.” Leylin was slightly curious.

At the mention of this, Damien’s expression darkened and he trembled, a look of suffering appearing on his face.

It was clear that his past was an extremely painful experience for him.

However, due to the control of the soul brand, he still had to adhere to Leylin’s command. “I was from the Steel Fort and was born in a regular little town. I was fortunate enough to be tested to have an affinity for magic and was accepted by my mentor into the Moonlight Shadow. Master may not have heard of it, as it is but a small Magi organisation. Even though I had to allow my mentor to experiment on my body, I was still lucky enough to survive and even became a level three acolyte...”

Until this point, Damien’s expression was still normal, but a traumatised look emerged on his face.

“Right after that was... the war! That darned war! As the powers lording over our district, the Wetland Gardens Academy began to support the expansion of other small organisations just because our leader was against them. Moonlight Shadow was conveniently used in the war, and my mentor, as well as many other seniors, died in battle. I was held captive and eventually became a slave...”

Leylin nodded in agreement. In the unwritten rules of the Magus World, Magi were typically not allowed to hold acolytes captive and use them as slaves, or else there would be no order in society.

But there was one situation where the Magi was evidently not protected by any laws or agreements — it was when they were the prisoners of war!

The prisoners of war and sub-human acolytes from established academies were the chief sources of magician slaves!

Leylin watched Damien, who was somewhat indignant and sorrowful, and suddenly felt a surge of fear.

At the beginning, if not for Abyssal Bone Forest Academy warding off the attack from the enemies, he wouldn't be able to escape at all and his fate might have been to be killed by an official Magus or captured as a prisoner, and later be sold off as a slave.

“That's why I'm so desperate for power! Only by possessing strength can I take control of my future!”

Leylin waved Damien away with a gesture of his hand.

“Familiarise yourself with the surroundings first. I want to go out and will only be back in the evening.”

.....

The villa that Leylin was renting was extremely spacious, and there were rooms specifically meant for the servants to live in. Having six slaves moving in wasn't crowded at all, and on the contrary, added a bit of life into the villa.

Damien revealed his abilities as an exceptional butler and kept Leylin's villa neat and tidy. This allowed Leylin to relax and discard thoughts about odd jobs that needed to be done around the villa, and focus on brewing the ancient potion, Tears of Mary, in the basement.

Countless days later, Leylin went to the old witch's shop alone and passed on to her the two portions of Tears of Mary that she was entitled to, based on their contract. They also set a timing for their next transaction.

After obtaining the ancient potions, no matter how hard the old witch tried to conceal her excitement, Leylin was still able to see her become feverish with elation.

She also stated that she was more than capable of handling even more spirits and that Leylin should prepare himself for that.

From the looks of it, in order to obtain more of these precious potions, she was willing to gather and prepare the ingredients at all costs.

Leylin was quite pleased with this temporary ally of his.

Though he didn't know the reason why she needed the potions so urgently, this was a situation that benefited him too.

After the two of them came to a consensus, Leylin returned to the villa and took care of all the matters in the villa. He then proceeded to the outside of the city and returned to Four Seasons Garden's headquarters on a Dragon Crown Nighthawk.

After joining Four Seasons Garden, besides the allocated amount that all Magi were entitled to, the great amount of resources in the library was something he something he coveted.

However, as a member of the organisation, he obviously was unable to stay in Nightless City all day long unless he was retired.

The missions this month were simple and could be completed in a few days, which gave him a lot of free time that he decided to spend in Nightless City.

At the moment, he had to return to Four Seasons Garden and take on the monthly tasks. Unless he wanted to renounce the portions he was allocated and the little power he had, he had to follow this sort of lifestyle.

If he were a typical Magus and were to use this way of life to slowly amass enough knowledge and resources for him to break through, it would take more than a hundred years!

But Leylin was different. Not only did he possess a high-grade meditation method, he was also extremely knowledgeable about the path one would need to take to become a rank 3 Magus. In addition, he had also stocked up and done preparations to ensure he had the best materials and ingredients!

In order to gain power and wealth, one needed to come up with alternative methods that might be frowned upon by others. He had never been a principled person.

Leylin had two main sources providing him with materials. One of them was the Four Seasons Garden, and even though the portion allocated by them was meagre, it still was a constant flow and the items were gained based on merit.

The other source was the dark Magi organisation he had recently joined. While it was slightly dangerous, the profits were plentiful.

With these two sources, one from an honest organisation and the other from an unscrupulous group, the rate at which he gathered his resources and increased his strength was far from what anyone could predict.

“Next, I’ll have to lay low, gather all my resources, and wait for the second transition of my bloodline.”

Leylin had planned everything for the next few years well ahead.

The current him was just like the Dragon Crown Nighthawk he

was sitting on — before it flew, it would silently save its energy, anticipating a time in the future when it could soar through the skies!

.....

Time flew by quickly, and in the blink of an eye, one year had passed.

The mountain that was the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters was still standing strong and proud as always. Magi travelled through the passages within the mountain, looking like ants as they travelled around.

“Leylin! The theory of the ecology that you tested in the secret plane aroused my interest. How about it? Shall we have a discussion about it?”

At the moment, in a room for rest and relaxation, a male Magus with fire-red hair was speaking with Leylin.

“Of course! I also hold an interest in the experiences and thoughts Magus Truman had while taking care of the Lava Goldfish.”

Leylin looked about the same as he did a year before, the main difference being the blackness in his eyes that seemed to have another layer of depth to them.

“I was planning to take a trip to the library anyway. We can talk there!” Leylin invited Magus Truman.

“But of course! I’m very familiar with your reputation as the child of the library,” Truman teased.

In answer, Leylin merely gave a light chuckle and did not take his comment to heart.

In the span of this one year, he had been lying low most of the time, completing his missions without complaints and receiving his allocated resources every month, mostly living in seclusion.

The place where he spent the most time in was the Four Seasons Garden’s giant library.

The Four Seasons Garden was on a much larger scale than Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, and the records and resources in the library were abundant.

In addition, with Leylin’s status as an official Magus, he had access to much more materials than what acolytes could get their hands on.

Though some high-grade knowledge and potion formulas needed to be exchanged for using the specified amount of contribution points, the resources that the Four Seasons Garden provided free of charge was extremely helpful for Leylin.

He spent about half a year gathering the information he had access to and saving them into the A.I. Chip, thereby largely enriching its database.

In order to prevent others from noticing the strangeness in his actions, Leylin would sometimes spend time in the library despite having saved all the information that was in there. For this pretense, he had rejected the invitations of countless beautiful female Magi. That had gained him several nicknames that were along the lines of ‘the insensitive wooden block’ and ‘the child of the library’ which quickly spread.

The Four Seasons Garden’s library was constructed within a huge hill, and acolytes could often be seen entering it.

As official Magi, Leylin and Truman naturally received special treatment and received an isolated room in order to facilitate their discussion. There was also a soft sofa and multi-coloured snacks within the room.

Chapter 173: The Venom Wyvern

“The theory of ecosystems has long since existed. For example, many Magi find that growing wild grasses alongside Tortoise-Backed Mountain Grass will increase the yields of both by 30%!”

Leylin sat on the sofa and began to articulate upon his theories.

“All I did was expand on this ring of connection. Adding multiple factors, it would proliferate to tens or even hundreds of species, forming a large ecosystem and increasing the outputs of various resources inside the secret plane...”

Truman’s eyes seemed to be giving off light. “What a novel theory! Being able to choose the most compatible ecosystem for the millions of resources in the natural world — I admire your knowledge and background in this area!”

Leylin just gave a faint smile. He was obviously unable to analyse that much data on his own, so the A.I. Chip did most of the work.

The research that he had made public was only on a superficial level.

He was prepared to employ the many key experiments and procedures in his very own secret plane in the future and was unwilling to help Four Seasons Garden increase their output for free. After all, he was no do-gooder.

“However, I am also curious about the Lava Goldfish that you’re rearing, Truman.” Leylin remarked with an anticipatory look in his eyes.

Lava Goldfishes were a unique species in the Magus World. Usually, they thrived in lava, which made them extremely difficult to breed.

As for their fish scales, they were necessary ingredients for many alchemy procedures. The blubber and flesh were a kind of nourishment which could recover a Magus’ energy and enable them to be revitalised after a weary meditation session. Hence, it was highly sought after with an extremely high price.

“Actually, it’s no big deal. These Lava Goldfishes’ habits are very predictable. Once you understand them, then you can make a relevant section inside the secret plane...”

Of course, Truman only briefly stated the methods.

“I hope to use this information of breeding the Lava Goldfishes to exchange for your theory of ecosystem. Moreover, as the value of your information is above mine, I am willing to top up 5000 more magic crystals!”

Truman made a sincere request.

“It’s no problem at all!” Leylin nodded and smiled. The purpose

of releasing this information was to exchange it for resources and knowledge with other magicians.

After a year of hard work, he had finally managed to grasp the general methods in operating a secret plane. Apart from that, he also learned about some of the habitats that the most expensive plants needed to thrive in. If he was given a secret plane to govern now, it would definitely not be in deficit, and actually, make profits.

Although Leylin was a dark Magus and participated in plundering operations that the organisation he was in arranged, he never excluded the possibilities of extracting more magic crystals using a light Magus' methods.

“Speaking of which, Leylin, you’re done with your missions for the month. Do you have any plans? I have a good friend whose experiment requires a high levelled Potions Master, so if you were to go...”

Truman sent Leylin an invitation.

Apart from their duties inside Four Seasons Garden, many magicians often had a part time job through their connections in the organisation, earning additional magic crystals and resources.

Of course, some did it purely as their interest or hobby, or merely just to help a friend out.

“My apologies! The mission for this month was extremely taxing. I wish to take this well-deserved break to recuperate in Nightless City!”

Leylin rejected Truman’s invitation tactfully.

Right now, he no longer prioritised these tiny organization’s resources or connections. Moreover, he was in the crucial period of boosting his prowess, so he did not have that much time to bother about other trivial matters.

“That’s really regretful...” Truman’s face reflected the disappointment that he felt. Only after exchanging several more words with Leylin and their specialised information did they separate.

“Lord Leylin!”

After parting with Truman, Leylin went to the landing pad of the Four Seasons Garden. The acolytes here all recognised Leylin and they bowed to greet him.

“How is Hawke’s current condition?”

Leylin walked to a cage with a giant creature within it. A pair of large red eyes stared back at him. The beast opened its jaws and revealed rows of razor sharp fangs that resembled swords, with a crimson tongue that had reverse scales.

“Lord, your mount’s appetite is great. Yesterday, it had even eaten a whole red bread pig. Its temper was rather nasty, though this could be due to it being caged for a long period of time...”

The acolyte who was in charge of these mounts was obviously skilled in his work. He was also extremely diligent as he replied Leylin.

Creak!

A scarlet rune appeared on Leylin’s finger, forming the shape of a key and entering the keyhole of the metal cage.

“Roar!”

With an impressive roar, a green wyvern charged out of the cage.

This creature had sharp talons and claws, and its whole body was covered in murky green scales. On its back was also a pair of large green wings. The membrane of the wings shone with a green lustre under the light.

[Venom Wyvern. Strength: 13.5, Agility: 19.8, Vitality: 11.2, Spiritual Force: 9.8. Special abilities: 1. Acidic breath: A corrosive poison will be spat on the mouth, with an area of effect of 20 metres. Average power: 16 degrees. 2. Toxic Rip: The Venom Wyvern’s claws and fangs have toxic properties, with a huge numbing effect on the spiritual force.]

The Venom Wyvern's stats were displayed by Leylin's A.I. Chip.

“Rawrrr!”

The gigantic Venom Wyvern continued to roar. At the same time, there was a fawning look in its eyes that was incredibly humane as it lowered its head and rubbed gently against Leylin's body.

“Alright! Alright! I will give you an upsize for your meals when I get back!”

Leylin could not help but laugh as he rubbed this Venom Wyvern which had the mentality of a puppy missing its owner.

“Hawke, bring me to Nightless City now!”

Leylin got onto the back of the Venom Wyvern in one leap.

“Rawrr!” The Venom Wyvern snarled and the wings on its back jolted, unfolding segment by segment until they were fully extended, and were at least three times larger than its body.

With a fierce hurricane, the Venom Wyvern spread its wings and swooped into the air.

“Hah... They're finally gone. Just having that Venom Wyvern standing here is enough to make me feel uncomfortable,” a female acolyte who was feeding a Dragon Crown Nighthawk, gave a long

sigh of relief.

“With that guy around, all these Nighthawks lost their appetites!” The female acolyte patted the Nighthawk in front of her that was eating cheerfully, seemingly just as relieved as her.

“That Venom Wyvern’s power is probably close to that of an official Magus. How strong must Magus Leylin be to be able to tame it?”

The male acolyte following behind Leylin had a very contrasting opinion from the female acolyte and his eyes reflected his envy and admiration for Leylin.

The Venom Wyvern’s flying speed was twice as fast as the Dragon Crown Nighthawk had been. It was thus much more convenient for Leylin to travel between Nightless City and the Four Seasons Garden.

Upon reaching the Nightless City’s landing pad, Leylin issued some orders for the acolytes to take care of his Venom Wyvern and gave Hawke another red bread pig before returning to his villa.

“Master!” Damien and a few Grand Knights bowed respectfully.

Leylin looked around, finding that the villa was still in the same state as it was before he had left. The human slaves that he had bought later on were carefully cleaning the staircase railing and all the pieces of artwork.

Damien was wearing a butler's uniform, looking impeccable as he stood behind Leylin.

“Master! After you left, your neighbour, Magus Crew came over once. Also, I've already paid the continuity fees to the communal centre. Here is the inventory.”

After which, Damien gave a report of what he had done in this period of time.

“Okay.” Leylin paid no mind to his words and nodded along. This Damien seemed to have undergone specialised training while he was a slave and was very proficient in these matters. Leylin had branded him and there was no way that he could revolt, so Leylin could place his trust in him.

“That's enough for now. Make me some dinner and milk tea!” Leylin ordered indifferently.

“Hawke can be used for transportation and can sweep away most acolytes, but he won't be useful in battles with official Magi.”

After a moment, Leylin, who was lying comfortably on a couch with pretty maids servicing him with their soft little hands, reflected with a hint of regret.

In the south coast, some Magi had top grade magic creatures as pets. These pets matured quickly, to the point that after their

master advanced, it was possible for their own strength to reach the level of an official Magus.

In battle, how much help would an assistant with the same rank render?

Unfortunately, no matter how much Leylin searched and gathered them, he couldn't find these high-quality pets, and could only purchase a Venom Wyvern to use as a mount.

Magi and their pets had to agree upon a strict spirit contract, and there were some that even required them to share their life force!

Leylin was obviously not going to waste his chance on this Venom Wyvern and used the simplest and cruelest spirit brand to forcibly control it. It was going to be a temporary mount, and he was planning to substitute it with a better option at the next best opportunity.

“But it’s a shame!”

Leylin turned his hand and a crystal that was like an amber revealed itself in his palm. In the middle of the crystal was a drop of green liquid that had a unique aura emanating from it constantly.

“The Venom Wyvern’s blood essence has a trace of the bloodline of the ancient creature — the Thousand Venom Dragon!” The A.I. Chip prompted.

That was why he had purchased the Venom Wyvern.

While he was in Nightless City, Leylin had constantly been collecting creatures that might have ancient bloodlines in them and tried to purify their blood with the A.I. Chip.

However, a majority of his experiments were a failure, and the blood essence in his palm was the best result he had.

“A.I. Chip, have you found out the reason?”

Chapter 175: The Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect

In order to obtain the bloodlines of more ancient creatures, Leylin had conducted numerous experiments. However, none of them were successful.

The best result was what was in his hand — the quintessence of some ancient creature.

To most Magi, this was probably a precious treasure, but for Leylin, this was far from enough.

[Beep! After 124 practical experiments and a comparison with 9718 simulated experiments, the conjecture is that the Host's concentration of bloodline essence is not enough. Unable to unearth deeper purification. Recommended to look for the blood essence of creatures with the power of rank 3 Magus and above as stimulus to purify bloodline.]

The A.I. Chip gave a prompt answer.

“As expected...” Leylin had already surmised this conjecture, and now it seemed to tally with the A.I. Chip's calculations.

After a long period of time, the ancient bloodline in the mystical creatures in the south coast had been thinned out so much that if not for the amazing ability of the A.I. Chip, Leylin would not even

be able to refine this blood that was full of impurities.

To obtain a pure ancient bloodline, it was necessary to gain blood samples from even stronger monsters.

The A.I. Chip had gathered that at the bare minimum, blood samples from a rank 3 creature had to be obtained.

That meant that as long as Leylin was able to obtain the blood of a monster that was rank 3 or higher, the A.I. Chip would be able to purify and extract a perfect sample of the ancient bloodline.

“But... A creature that is rank 3 or above?” Leylin smiled wryly at his thoughts, “I’d probably die just from a snort from them! I’d obtained the blood from the Black Horrall Snake that originally had the strength of a rank 3 Magus. Thankfully, its might had weakened to the equivalent of an acolyte, and that alone was a giant stroke of luck. It’s as if a tasty meat pie had fallen from the heavens! ”

The Giant Kemoyin Serpent’s bloodline that Leylin was in possession of was purified from the Black Horrall Snake previously found in the Dylan Gardens.

That Black Horrall Snake was a powerful creature that rivalled the strength of a rank 3 Magus at its adult stage!

The Black Horrall Snake back then had definitely matured into an adult. However, due to the limiters inside the secret plane,

coupled with prolonged hunger — and perhaps also with the other methods from the great Magus Serholm — it caused the Black Horrall Snake's state to deteriorate in its slumber, eventually turning pitiful enough to be attacked by a group of level 3 acolytes.

This was obviously a present that the great Magus Serholm left for his inheritor. It was an intentional setup and not a coincidence.

The great Magus Serholm was a rank 4 Warlock, and as compared to Leylin who was a rank 1 Warlock, he was the sun while Leylin was but a firefly.

“These things are dependent on luck. At most, I'll take more notice in the future. It's not the time to think about this now!”

Leylin pulled up his stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock. Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 58.9, Magic Power: 58 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 70%. Status: Healthy]

In this year, he had been continuing his trade with the old witch. Using the processed spirits she had gathered, he had obtained a large quantity of the ancient potion-Tears of Mary!

With the help of the ancient potion, Leylin's spiritual force shot up rapidly.

Leylin had spent quite some time in the Four Seasons Garden and through the exchange of contribution points, he had gathered the formulas of potions that could increase an official Magus' spiritual force.

However, he found that those potions' effects were nothing compared to the ancient potion.

With its help, Leylin increased his spiritual force at a shocking rate, as if he had no limits.

Presently, he had no choice but to use concealment methods to hide his tremendous spiritual force. He stayed indoors whenever possible, avoiding areas where rank 2 Magi might appear. He didn't want there to be any chances of others finding out.

Unfortunately, even with the A.I. Chip constantly upgrading the concealment method, it was not possible to hide his spiritual force entirely.

The moment he had a break, Leylin would rush back to Nightless City to hide and avoided all social interaction.

After reaching a certain level in terms of his spiritual force, Leylin had once again used the crystallised Darkness energy particles to push his elemental essence conversion to 70%!

However, after his elemental essence conversion reached 70%,

Leylin received a notification from the A.I. Chip that his body and spirit had developed a resistance towards such crystals. Unless he found more precious resources to raise his elemental essence conversion in the future, he could only rely on meditation and time and progress at a slower rate.

“Potions made by ancient Magi are really different!”

A look of satisfaction crossed Leylin’s face. “The agreement with the old witch cannot be broken. Moreover, finding new ways to conceal my spiritual force is becoming a matter of urgency.”

In all honesty, he should be collecting the spirits himself. Directly branding the spirits of slaves who helped out would ensure that this matter was kept secret.

However, the preparatory stages for the brewing of the Tears of Mary required someone with the might of a rank 1 Magus. Moreover, it had to be a Magus who was specialised in spirits.

As for Leylin, his current attainment in the knowledge of spiritual force and spirits only allowed him to brand level 3 acolytes. It was basically impossible to brand an official Magus.

Anyway, the old witch had made her vow in front of the Trial’s Eye, so she could be trusted for the time being.

“However, the amount of spirits provided by the old witch seems to have decreased. In the past few trades, she also seemed distant

and unfocused and didn't even participate in the activities organised by the dark Magi organisation. It seems there's something of extreme importance going on. I'd better check on her tomorrow and hope that there won't be any trouble..."

This ally of his was recently acting strangely, inciting worry in Leylin's heart.

"Master! Your dinner's ready!"

Damien's voice sounded while he was deep in thought, enjoying the service from his maids.

"Alright! I'll be right there!"

Leylin opened his eyes, the blackness in his pupils gaining another depth in them...

After a day of entertainment and rest, Leylin was feeling refreshed. Wrapped in a black cloak, Leylin covered even his face and paid a visit to the old witch's shop.

"What happened to you?"

The moment Leylin saw the state the old witch was in, he wrinkled his eyebrows.

The first time he'd seen her, the old witch looked like a dead

person. The scent of death and decay was even more apparent now, and she looked like she was a corpse which had just crawled out of an old tomb. The undulations from her spiritual force were also extremely feeble.

This condition immediately alarmed Leylin.

For Magi, injuries on one's physical body were insignificant, but if one's spiritual force showed signs of weakening, that immediately meant that one's might was decreasing.

The old witch was still Leylin's ally, and he didn't want his supplier to suddenly disappear.

"Nothing much! Just a recent experiment that's approaching its crucial stage!" Her body was already as weak as it could get, and just speaking resulted in her panting. However, the light in her eyes was even more radiant, as if on the verge of burning up.

Leylin had seen such a fervent heat in a person's gaze before— in his previous life, in the eyes of lunatics and crazy people.

"You'd better not keep anything from me. Remember, we're allies. Haven't we been working well together in this past year?"

Leylin obviously didn't believe her vague explanation.

"When it's time, I'll definitely tell you everything."

The old witch gave a mysterious grin. “Also, I’ve found the spiritual force concealment method that you requested the previous time.”

“What? What?!” This was so unexpected that a smile surfaced on Leylin’s face.

He had always been searching for this content on the sly and attended a few of the dark Magi’s bazaars and meets to exchange resources, but to no avail.

He wasn’t expecting much when he employed her help, and it was a pleasant surprise that she had actually gotten what he wanted.

“This is information regarding the compression of spiritual force. Take a look!” She passed a green leaf to him.

Leylin reached out and took it, and then placed it on his forehead.

A cool feeling was emitted from the leaf and permeated Leylin’s skull, going straight into the depths of his brain.

[Spiritual force data interface has been detected. To accept the connection or not?] The A.I. Chip’s voice intoned.

“Accept!” With Leylin’s command, a massive stream of information entered Leylin’s sea of consciousness. It was constantly broken down, recorded and analysed by the A.I. Chip.

“Overall, the compression of spiritual force is to stack the spiritual force together continuously, arising in a different frequency of energy waves. From there, one can achieve the purpose of concealing their spiritual force...”

After browsing through for a while, Leylin smiled in satisfaction.

“This piece of information is very useful to me, but it seems to be incomplete. Where is the rest of it? Take it out! What do you want? Magic crystals? Potions? Resources? Just give the word!”

Leylin appeared to be extremely rich and overbearing.

“Hehehe... Just with the first half of this information, your spiritual force will be untraceable to all rank 1 Magi. Once you have the second half, even a rank 2 Magus won’t be able to discover your spiritual force energy waves. Although you can definitely afford it, I wish to make a trade with you using another method...” The old witch said with a cryptic laugh and hooted.

“What method?” Leylin’s brows furrowed, guessing that it was going to be extremely troublesome.

“I will give you the first half of the information now as a gift of thanks for being my ally!” The old witch appeared to be extremely

generous, “As for the second half, I need you to do something for me!”

It was obvious that the old witch was using the second half of the information as bait to have Leylin help her with a certain matter.

“I need to know the specifics.”

Leylin did not refuse, but he did not agree either.

“Hehe... Don’t worry, I won’t ask you to hold back a rank 2 Magus or anything like that. I just want you to accompany me to explore some ruins.”

The old witch revealed her true motive.

“Exploring ruins? What ruins?” Leylin probed curiously.

“The remnants of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect!”

Chapter 175: Brass Ring And Jaye

“The Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect?!”

Leylin’s looked lost for a second, and immediately made a sound of astonishment. “Do you mean that sect that’s full of lunatics who think that spirits are the ultimate resting state of all living beings and like to massacre and sacrifice human flesh from time to time? Do you mean that wicked Magi sect?”

“Exactly! The Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect was just a small sect in the south coast during ancient times. I didn’t expect you to know of them!”

The old witch gasped at Leylin.

“The ruins of this kind of crazy sect is definitely going to be annoying. There might be some troublesome curses or mechanisms in there...”

Leylin was very clear about his abilities.

A year ago, he could barely win over a Magus with 50% elemental essence conversion and was considered an elite within the tier of rank 1 Magi.

After a year of constantly increasing his spiritual force and elemental essence conversion, the current him was at the top,

second only to those who were on the verge of breaking through and already met the requirements in terms of their spiritual force and elemental essence conversion.

This might was considered quite good in the entire south coast and he could be ranked highly here, but, if he had the misfortune of bumping into a rank 2 Magus, all that awaited him was death. At the most, he had a little hope of escaping with all his might, but what were his chances of survival? The A.I. Chip calculated that it was less than 10%!

In ancient times, elite Magi organisations were sure to have rank 4 Magi taking charge, and it was obvious that there were multiple rank 2 and 3 Magi.

The mechanisms left behind by Magi with such levels of strength were definitely not something Leylin could ward off, even though thousands of years had passed.

“Don’t worry, we’re just seeing a small part of it! I’ve also invited a few other friends. I just need one item from there, and all other gains will be left for you to divide amongst yourselves!”

The old witch gave her word.

“It looks like this item must be of massive importance to her. If that’s the case, it might be possible for me to...”

After hearing her words, Leylin’s eyes darted around as he

considered.

“I need to think this over.”

Out of cautiousness, Leylin decided to obtain more information first before answering her.

“Alright, but make it quick. I plan to leave in five days, so contact me using the secret imprint before then!” The old witch gave a quick nod and passed a dozen spirit spheres to Leylin.

“This is the latest batch of spirits! However, I need 20% more of your potions this time. I’ll exchange some items to make up for this! How about two hundred thousand magic crystals and a Wolf Spirit Flower?”

Leylin glanced at the old witch, whose spiritual force undulations were waning.

If she was the one using all those spiritual force potions, she definitely would not be in this state. From the looks of it, all the potions she had obtained had been given to someone else.

“Sure!” After giving it a thought, Leylin agreed.

In order to increase the efficiency of the Tears of Mary and break through the nature of spiritual force, which always hit a bottleneck, he would always meditate for a period of time first. When the increase in his spiritual force slowed, he would then use

the potion.

Based on the A.I. Chip's calculations, this combination was the best method to consume the potion.

Hence, he still had some Tears of Mary in his possession.

.....

Five days later, on a flat ground in the eastern part of the Nightless City.

A shining bright moon hung in the sky, reflecting a silvery lustre on the earth.

The silhouettes of the trees dancing in the wind continuously projected malevolent shadows on the ground, just like monsters of various shapes and sizes.

Whoosh!

Countless black figures converged, forming the shadows of 3 figures on the ground.

Two of the three people had worn a thick layer of black robes and used a veil to cover their faces. It seemed to give off the vibe of something eerie and crafty.

“Old Devil! When is Blood Rogue coming?” A cloaked figure spoke to the person that did not put on a veil but had a small demon mask on instead.

“Soon!” The voice of an old woman sounded from under the mask.

“By the way, I don’t have a problem with you getting Blood Rogue to come since he’s from our organisation and he’s quite strong. Who’s this person though?”

The cloaked person projected to the old witch, evidently dissatisfied.

“Don’t worry, she’s a good friend of mine. She’s definitely trustworthy!” The old witch guaranteed.

“She’d better be. If not, no matter how tempting your rewards are, I’ll take my leave!”

“Don’t worry, she’s...” She projected to him once more.

“I see!” She told the cloaked person some information, and it immediately became silent.

Minutes later, a blood-red flame soared at the site and a silhouette covered in a crimson cloak directly appeared on the ground.

“My apologies, I’m a little late!”

Leylin spoke and glanced through the people around.

He was obviously familiar with the old witch, and he had also seen the cloaked man in the dark Magi organisation before. He went by the nickname Brass Ring. As for the other, Leylin had no idea who it was.

“Blood Rogue, you’re here! Let me introduce you, you already know Brass Ring, and this here is Jaye, a good friend of mine!”

The old witch first gave a brief introduction.

At this moment, Leylin, who had gone back to his experiment lab and tested the spiritual force concealment spell that he had gotten from the old witch, coveted the latter half of the spell even more.

Moreover, regarding the ruins of an ancient organisation such as the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, Leylin was also somewhat interested in them. Hence, after a period of consideration, he finally agreed to the old witch’s invitation.

However, as she had invited others, Leylin naturally made a deal with the old witch and came here with his identity as Blood Rogue in the dark Magi organisation.

Since he was using that identity, he naturally couldn't ride his Venom Wyvern.

The present Leylin's face was all red, and he had the appearance of a malevolent demon. There were even horns on his demon mask.

"Blood Rogue! Long time no see!" Brass Ring acknowledged his comrade.

Leylin's had gained a reputation from his identity as Blood Rogue from the few operations within the organisation. It could also be said that he was infamous, and coupled with the way the bald Venom Snake had suddenly vanished with no warning, Brass Ring was slightly fearful of this Blood Rogue.

Dark Magi respected power, and Brass Ring naturally would not underestimate Leylin.

"Brass Ring! And Jaye, hello!" Leylin greeted and smiled.

"Alright, since we're all here, let us set off!"

The old witch nodded her head and her figure disappeared in the darkness. Following which, after various flashes of light, there was no one left on this patch of ground, and darkness once again enveloped the area...

The old witch led Leylin and the others on a hastened journey. As

they were all official Magus, their travelling speed was extremely quick, far surpassing the speed of horses. In the span of two days, they had already traversed across the entire Teljose plains.

Following which, Leylin and the others walked towards an extremely ordinary looking town.

This western styled town was no different from others, and the total headcount would not exceed ten thousand people.

As for the professions in this town, lumberers and farmers comprised the bulk of it. On the paths, there were even rubbish and dung strewn.

“It smells quite bad here!”

Brass Ring grumbled.

From the strange attire of the four of them, it was obvious that they could not enter the small town in broad daylight. The old witch first let them hide outside while she went in by herself.

After that, they strutted in without fear to the sight of numerous people who were in a deep sleep along the roads.

“This...” Leylin breathed in with his nose, “The pollen of the Sea Anemone Flower, and the liquid secretion from the Pungent Rat’s joints! This dosage is enough for them to stay asleep for at least three days and three nights!”

“Hehe... And even if someone were to chop off one of their legs or kill them, they wouldn’t even wake up. That’s enough for us to conduct our exploration...”

“Is three days enough? Isn’t it more convenient to just kill all of them? We can even take this opportunity to obtain a few bloodthirsty spirits and the like.” Brass Ring casually brought up.

This was the way a typical dark Magus thought. They revelled in bloodshed and violence and preferred to slaughter in order to solve most of their problems.

“After the exploration, I’ll let you do anything you want with them, but now, you have to listen to me!” The old witch stared at Brass Ring, a strange undulation emitting from her body.

Teng Teng! Brass Ring had to retreat a few steps. “Are you mad? You want to use this in this situation? Are you looking to die?”

“Don’t provoke me, or you’ll absolutely regret it!” Her voice was hoarse.

At this moment, Brass Ring suddenly came to the realisation that the old witch in front of him was one of the elders in the organisation. She had connections and her powers were unknown, and if not for an incident many years ago, her power would be much stronger now!

At this moment, the other Magus called Jaye stood behind the old witch and expressed her support for her.

“Alright, alright! Let’s make a compromise and not act this way!”

Leylin began to resolve the dispute, “Among the light Magi’s standard operating procedures during times of calamity, a town whose civilians had all fainted or were all massacred are two different matters altogether. The first scenario would only have acolytes dispatched to investigate, as for the second scenario, there will be official Magi dispatched!”

“For the sake of our safety, Brass Ring, it’s better for you to hold it in!” Following which, Leylin turned around and asked the old witch, “Time is indeed a concern. Old Devil, I’m sure you can tell us some things by now, can’t you?”

The old witch looked at Leylin deep in the eyes before reluctantly agreeing. “Alright then!”

“... This is a small scale secret plane that I stumbled on during my travels. It should be an experiment lab of sorts. The area will not exceed 100 mu, so we can definitely finish exploring it within 3 days!”

“Small scale secret plane?” A flash of disappointment was shown on Leylin’s face.

In the south coast, the secret planes were also categorised.

Chapter 176: A Banshee

In the south coast, the storage type secret plane Leylin had previously raided and the laboratory type secret plane that the old witch found were all classified as small scale secret planes.

The area of these kind of secret planes usually didn't exceed a 100 mu and were only used to perform experiments and to store supplies. If one does not take into account of the items stored inside and only look at the area of the secret plane, its worth would be at the bottom.

Above that were the resource type secret planes, the area of that type of secret planes is usually larger than 100,000 mu. The area is large and the topology is varied and suitable to grow resources necessary to Magi.

The highest rank of secret planes are those that have spells that can adjust the living environments of both plants and animals, and can be controlled by a single Magus!

These are only under normal circumstances, there are also places like Dylan Gardens which Leylin previously found. Even though the area was small but it was personally arranged by the fourth level warlock great Magus Serholm, thus its value couldn't be compared to the normal planes of its kind.

"It's a shame! If it was a resource type of secret plane, we could occupy it in secret then alter it, hehe... then we would be filthy

rich!”

Brass Ring was stroking his chin as if he was caught in some fantasy.

“Keep dreaming!” The old witch sneered icily, interrupting Brass Ring’s fancy dreams.

“The bigger the area of the secret plane, the higher the cost of construction. As for the resource type secret planes which was larger than 100k mu, even for some ancient Magi organisations, there weren’t many that could afford to construct it...”

“All the present resource type secret planes that belongs to the large organisations are all remnants from the ancient Magi which have been altered slightly, that’s all! If there really was a resource type secret plane being discovered here, the likes of us wouldn’t be able to stomach it. Even if we added our whole organisation plus the Boss that is backing it, it still wouldn’t be enough!”

“Let’s go! Even if it’s just a laboratory type of secret plane, there must still be a lot of valuable stuff inside. We’re also handing over a lot contributions to the higher ups. It’s enough for you to trade for a lot of resources!” Leylin said.

For these kind of small scale secret planes, every large Magi organisation has set up missions.

No matter if it’s Four Seasons Garden or the dark Magi

organisation which the old witch belonged to, they all have the power to take it over. After which there naturally will be a lot of rewards for the finders.

If this was a resource type of secret plane then Leylin would put in some thought in order to pocket it himself.

Since it's only a laboratory type of secret plane, he didn't put much thought into pocketing it. After all even if he was to occupy it because it's so small he couldn't actually alter it that much. At most he would only have a small scale secret base to hide.

“The entrance to the secret plane is on the west side of this town, inside a two story wooden building!”

The old witch seemed quite familiar with the surroundings as she brought the three of them to a two-storey building made out of wood.

Compare to the small town, this place was even more remote. Weed were growing all around the villa and there were even two mole like animals quickly scurrying by.

“Originally this place was a lively street, but since 13 years ago the residents in this place kept dying one by one. Sometimes the town residents could hear sound of a woman wailing outside their homes, that's why the rumors spread about it being a cursed or a haunted house. The surroundings ended up being overgrown!”

The old witch opened up the rusted gates while feeling rather satisfied with herself.

“I found this place during one of my explorations, after a couple of months of investigation, I’m sure that the unusual situations around here is cause by the deterioration of the defensive spells around the entrance to the secret plane, unwillingly leaking radiation ...”

“According to calculations, after 13 years the defensive spells should have totally deteriorated. Leaving the entrance to the secret plane exposed...”

“Thusly I pretend to be an ordinary person and bought this building, plus I added a facade on the outside so other Magi couldn’t discover this place.”

Leylin was listening to the old witch while he was exploring the inside of this building.

The bottom floor wasn’t that big, it only contained 2 to 3 buildings. The hall was filled with a thick layer of dust and broken furniture. In the corner was a spiral staircase filled with holes. It was the only thing connecting these two floors.

Beneath this obvious state of decline, Leylin could feel a strong aura of negative energy.

This aura was extremely malevolent, and it carried with it a smell

that Leylin was familiar with.

“Spirits! And they’re spirits that have been driven crazy from being vengeful!” The corner of Leylin’s mouth curved, “This old witch really found a nice place!”

“Follow me! Be careful not to touch the black mold on the walls, those are trigger points!”

The old witch was in front leading the while, bringing the three behind as they climbed the squeaky stairs to the second floor. She seemed extremely familiar with this place.

The area on the second floor was smaller than the large hall on the first, where the corridors only allowed 2 people to walk side by side.

By chance Leylin was walking beside Jaye, because the other person was entirely wrapped in a cloak and didn’t speak much. Leylin couldn’t even distinguish the other person’s gender.

“This oil painting is the entrance to the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane!”

By the end of the corridor, the old witch was pointing towards an oil painting that was hanging on the wall as she turned around and spoke to Leylin and the rest.

Leylin’s focus involuntarily shifted to the oil painting.

This oil painting depicted a richly dressed noble woman, using a delicate fan to cover half her face.

Due to time and age, there were a lot of dust on the walls. Even around the oil painting were a ring of thick dust.

The whole oil painting used green as a base color, and it didn't seem to fit the picture.

Besides, maybe it's because of the angle and line, but if he stared at it long enough, Leylin felt that the fan the noble woman was holding in the oil painting moved slightly.

Suddenly, the young woman inside the oil painting blinked her eyes!

“Is this oil painting alive?”

Leylin cried out involuntarily.

“You're finally awake?” The old witch advanced as she cackled.

“Foreign intruders, speak the password!” The woman inside the oil painting blinked again as information directly entered each Magus that was present.

“Password? Your masters have all perished, and right now we've

come to take everything inside the secret plane!”

The old witch was staring at the woman in the oil painting, “If you choose to comply, there might be a place for you inside my storage room!”

“Password incorrect!” The woman inside the painting said. Leylin was keenly aware of that the fan which the noble woman held inside her hand closed slightly.

“It’s only a being conjured by spells, yet it dares to disobey me!”

The old witch’s eyes emitted green lights, and a ring of green fireballs emerged flying directly toward the oil painting.

Bam!

As the green fireballs burned the oil paint, the noble woman’s fan closed entirely exposing the face behind it.

Leylin didn’t expect that under the beautiful half of the noble woman’s face was a nose and mouth composed entirely out of bones.

This appearance was as if the flesh and blood below the noble woman’s eyes had instantly disappeared.

A feeling of discrepancy and wrongness suddenly assaulted

Leylin's thoracic cavity.

Scree!

Following that, the shrill sound of a woman flooded the whole corridor.

The green fireballs started to crumble, turning into small spark of green fire. Following which it directly extinguished in the fluctuation of the air.

[Beep! Host is being attacked by sound waves. Resemblance to banshee wail 67%. Abnormality in muscle coordination, spiritual force circulation rate lowered by 89%...]

The A.I. Chip projected the status with red color in front of Leylin's eyes.

“Banshee wail? Could it be that there is a genuine banshee trapped inside that oil painting?” Leylin was startled, immediately a layer of crimson membrane appeared outside his body and isolated the sound.

Even though his ears still hurt, but his body has regained his mobility.

At the same time, a couple of blood red tentacles like intestines protruded from the oil painting and they headed for Brass Ring.

“Damnable thing!” Brass Ring cursed as his body protruded countless bone spikes. The red intestines was directly pierced and was severed.

“Bone Spike Arts?!” Leylin was startled, “He actually solidified this kind of innate spells onto himself, is he a masochist?”

Bone Spike Arts was a rank 1 spell, and was quite formidable. But its activation process was quite a hassle. It needed to be grown from a Magus’ own skeleton then pierce the Magus’ own muscle before attacking his opponent.

This kind of spell was literally hurting oneself before hurting your opponent, only maniacs and masochist would pick this.

“I’ll tear you damnable thing to pieces!”. One could see that Brass Ring was quite enraged since he was forced to use his innate spell.

Presently, his whole body was covered with bone spikes. It gave one the impression that he was like a white sea urchin.

At the same time, a green light spread from below his neck to his whole body, initiating blood staunching and similar effects.

“Stop!” The old witch’s body started to emit countless translucent spirit bodies, and every one of them circulated around Brass Ring’s body, making his speed drop.

“There is a spell effect on this oil painting, if you tear it apart the whole entrance to the secret plan will also collapse!”

The old witch's expression turned serious, “Let me do it!”

When the previous Banshee wail had struck, the bodies of both the old witch and Jaye emitted a black colored membrane. It seemed like neither of them suffered any injuries.

“Your Banshee wail was pretty good, it is a shame that the matching spell formation has been half collapsed due to the passage of time. What's left isn't something than can affect us official Magi...”

The old witch looked upon the Banshee within the oil painting with pity, as she stroked the surface of the painting with her hand.

Following which tiny dark purple dots originated from the old witch's palm and spread continuously. Like someone was adding a coat of paint.

“Come forth! My baby!”

The old witch said softly, her voice sounding tender and flirtatious.

As soon as these words were uttered, the Banshee within the painting turned fearful, as if she had encountered her natural enemy.

Chapter 177: The Spirit Devouring Moth

After the black purple colour extended throughout the entire oil painting, the banshee disappeared without a trace.

“That’s a pretty good entrapment method! Did you buy this just for this purpose?”

Leylin approached the old witch, “I’m rather interested in this banshee. Can you sell it to me later? I’ll buy it at twice the market price!”

“Once we’re done exploring the secret plane and we find what I want, I can just give it to you!”

The old witch flashed Leylin a glance.

At the present, in the middle of the oil painting a small dot of silver light suddenly appeared.

The silvery light grew bigger and bigger and the surrounding void started to ripple. Finally, it settled into a corridor filled with a silvery sheen.

Resentment, wailing! A strong aura of dark spiritual power poured out constantly from within the corridor.

A faint mist started to rise around the whole wooden building and the sound of people of all ages started to sound all around.

This kind of scenery, if the old witch didn't previously put everyone in the town into slumber, would most likely have caused quite a commotion in the town.

“Even though there is no chance of encountering any ancient Magi inside the secret plane, but there are still some lingering curses and traps that are still working. We better be careful... considering that the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect was a Magi organization famous for researching spirits, one must prepare accordingly.”

The old witch warned specifically.

“By now you should reveal to us what you're really looking for right?” Leylin locked the old witch with his gaze.

“Heuheuheu... relax, you'll all know when that time comes!” The old witch just cackled manically as usual.

“Speak the truth. Old Devil if you still won't we all will feel insecure...” This time, Brass Ring sided with Leylin, “If you don't tell me now, I won't be able to keep my former promises...”

“You guys...” The old witch was quite anxious but suddenly broke into a coughing fit. Her originally crooked body seemed to bend even more as if her waist was about to break.

“Sigh... Alright then!”

After a long while the old witch recovered her breath but her complexion was turning paler.

“It’s an altar-like thing. There is only one of it in the whole laboratory. You won’t be able to miss it!”

The old witch spoke with an impatience.

“Then what? Only this much information?” Brass Ring immediately asked.

“What else do you think there is?” The old witch’s eyes emitted green light as her gaze bore into the body of Brass Ring, “I only found some clues from some ancient information that this altar might be inside this secret plane, how could I know any more specific facts?”

As if he was afraid that the old witch would again lash out at him, Brass Ring chose wisely not to ask any further questions.

“Then what’s the altar’s function?” After Brass Ring went silent, Leylin asked instead. “Don’t tell me that you don’t even know how to use the altar and still went to look for it.”

“Of course not!” The old witch tried to calm her expression but

still chose to speak at last, “That altar is a product made by the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect during their later periods, and is called the Spirit Altar. It has great benefits towards alleviating my current conditions. There is even a chance that it might directly cure it...”

“If you all help me get to it, then Blood Rogue’s materials, Brass Ring’s thunder fire stone, Jaye’s gasping lakewater will all be given, not one gram less!”

The old witch guaranteed once more.

Leylin didn’t completely believe it — it was apparent that the old witch had some other tricks up her sleeve.

“You and I are old friends, if I won’t help you then who will?” Among the rest of the three Jaye was the first to speak. The voice was neither masculine nor feminine and carried a weird pitch.

“Alright! I was just asking!” Brass Ring also started to concede.

“What about you Blood Rogue?” The old witch looked over Leylin.

“If you are not planning to exploit us and make us risk our lives for your cause, I don’t have any other objections!” Leylin sneered.

“That’s good!”

The old witch looked at the corridor which emitted silvery light and said, “Alright, the corridor should be completely stabilised by now, let’s us proceed!”

Following which the old witch’s eyes radiated a fervent hunger as she stepped into the corridor.

Leylin and the rest looked at each other and followed.

The dazzling silvery light suddenly expanded and swallowed the four people completely.

“Buzz buzz!”

Leylin scanned his surroundings.

What he saw was a black corridor which seemed to be constructed by some unknown metal. The wall could strangely enough reflect their shadows.

But the shadows appeared twisted and seemed to emit a bone-chilling laughter.

“Illusion materialization technique?” Leylin smiled coldly. Black light flashed in his eyes and he was able to break out of the illusion immediately.

Following which he heard some buzzing sounds.

Following the sound a large grey cloud appeared. Once it got closer, Leylin discovered that this dark cloud consisted of densely packed, moth-like organisms.

Fur grew on these organisms, and the image of a huge eye was depicted on each of their huge wings. It seemed quite eerie.

“Careful! Those are the Spirit Devouring Moths!” The old witch raised the alarm.

“Don’t touch the dust that they carry, otherwise your spirit and mentality will be continuously corroded!”

At the same time the old witch opened her mouth and emitted a shrill scream. Sound waves could be seen exploding forth like an artillery shell.

Boom!

Half of the grey clouds disappeared, and at the same time, a huge amount of dust billowed down like it was snowing.

Whoosh! As he heard the old witch mention the name of Spirit Devouring Moths, Leylin was already on alert. Now a scarlet red membrane of light enveloped his body and kept the dust at bay.

[Host's body is being attacked by an unknown powder. The powder has a sticky quality!] [Activating the defense potion smeared on Host's body. Adjusting frequency, emitting shockwaves... Adhesive powder substance's effect removed!] A prompt from the A.I. Chip emerged in front of Leylin's eyes.

“Such a bother!”

Leylin had read about this adhesive quality in the Four Seasons Garden's library before. This type of attack would stick onto the opponent's body, and if the layer of light was removed before the powder was completely gotten rid of, the powder's magic would be activated and begin the second attack.

“Crimson Palm!”

Leylin's hands suddenly turned red as he struck an offensive pose. Both his hands clawed in front of him.

Bang!

Two crimson talons' image flashed through the void. It surrounded the Spirit Devouring Moths from both left and right and pressed towards the center.

Countless moths were directly torn into tatters by the blood talons, torn wings and grey dust like kept fluttering.

[Host's Crimson Palm's theoretical power: 20 degrees. Real

power: 34 degrees, Crimson Palm reached boundary of limits, adding additional power!]

Along with the sound from the A.I. Chip's prompt, the phantom crimson claws in the air suddenly trembled, and blood-red flames burst out from his two hands, burning up all the falling bodies.

Without even emitting any smoke, the Spirit Devouring Moths were directly burnt to ashes in the crimson flames.

“Is this the signature move of the Blood Rogue — the Crimson Palm? Why is it so powerful?”

Brass Ring looked at Leylin with shock.

Within the dark Magi organisation, Leylin was a newcomer who went by the name Blood Rogue, and the spells that he often used were quickly revealed.

Brass Ring was aware that Leylin had such a technique, but he never knew that it had such a mighty offensive power!

“You have made great progress recently!”

The old witch secretly transmitted to Leylin.

From what Brass Ring had seen from the battle between the old witch and the Spirit Devouring Moths, he reckoned that these

creatures were crafty and difficult to handle. Leylin, however, had used just one spell and completely demolished the opponent, which shocked the old witch.

It seemed that from the very beginning, this ally of hers had been developing at a frightening speed!

“This might... Is your elemental essence conversion more than 50%?” The old witch transmitted her voice to Leylin.

“What do you think?” Leylin answered indifferently.

“Hehe... the stronger you are the more it will benefit me. After all, compared to Brass Ring, I would rather trust you who signed a contract with me!”

The old witch made another promise while she spouted words she herself didn't believe, “As long as you help me, not only will I give you information about concealing your spiritual force, I'll also give you another million magic crystals. Hell, I'll even give up my position as an elder in the organisation to you!”

“A position like that is transferrable?” Leylin was a little shocked. The group that he was in, the Thousand Meddling Leaves, didn't have any real leader. The rank 2 dark Magus backing them was only in contact with a few of the elders.

The organisation had gatherings and trade fairs every once in awhile, letting the members have chances to find good

opportunities.

The moment an elder felt that the lead a member had found was worth acting on, he or she would gather the members and launch a looting operation. The elder and members who had first found out about this chance would be able to get a bonus after the plundering.

It was obvious that once one became an elder, he or she would have a place as a leader in the dark Magi organisation. His or her status would be different.

“This situation would be impossible in a typical organisation, but what can I do when I have a dark Magi organisation backing me?” The transmitted voice of the old witch sounded bitter.

“Actually, besides me, the other elders have been changed quite a few times already. My condition hasn’t been the best lately, and the number of people waiting to trample on me have increased...”

Her explanation made a lot of sense, but Leylin didn’t really believe it.

“Alright! Since I’ve received your deposit, I’ll do my best in the coming expedition!” Leylin agreed.

This entire exchange was very quick, and as they both came to an agreement, the blood-red flames that had just been ignited in mid-air, had been extinguished.

The old witch took on her role as the leader and guided them in. Minutes later, the four of them came to a fork in the path.

Chapter 178: Vengeful Spirit — Loathsome Evil

In front of Leylin and the rest of the exploration team.

A passage made of jet-black metal had opened up to three pathways, each leading to a different direction.

At each of the entrances, there were no obvious signs at all, causing a wave of foreboding to go through the four of them.

“Since it’s a laboratory, how can there not be a sign for it?”

Brass Ring took the initiative and asked.

“There might have been one that had been destroyed by someone, or the Magi here had another method of communication that we’re unaware of!”

The old witch shot a glance at Brass Ring. “What’s wrong? We’ve come all the way here, are you thinking of backing out of our deal?”

“Of course not!” Brass Ring shook his head like it was the most obvious thing to do.

Not only were the rewards that the old witch offered extremely generous, there was a large possibility of there being large amounts of profit from within the secret plane. Neither of these were things that Brass Ring was willing to give up on.

“In that case, should we split up into teams and search, or do it by ourselves?” Leylin asked a very practical question.

“Of course, we’re going to go in as a group! This is the ruins left behind by ancient Magi! Traps and other defense mechanisms are not easy for us to dismantle even as a group! It’s much too dangerous for us to act alone!”

As the initiator of this operation, the old witch was resolute and made the decision for them.

“We’ve set up everything in the town already, and in the next ten days, there will certainly not be any people compelled to enter. This is enough time for us to clear up everything in the laboratory!”

After hearing her words, Jaye quickly agreed. Leylin thought it through for a while and also nodded.

“Alright then!”

Hearing Leylin’s agreement, Brass Ring had no choice but to curl his lip and approve of this suggestion.

The four of them chose the path that was on the far right and entered.

Step step!

Black leather shoes and the metal flooring met, the friction causing a very piercing sound.

“Be careful. The methods of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect are much more difficult to deal with than Spirit Devouring Moths...” Leylin reminded as he glanced at the surrounding walls.

A bright sound was constantly travelling through the passage, and there were also some echoes.

Leylin suddenly paused.

Only his figure was left in the entire passage. The old witch, Brass Ring, and Jaye had all disappeared!

“What happened?” Leylin fixed his attention on the red reflection on the metal wall.

“Did I unconsciously activate some trap? Even the A.I. Chip didn’t detect it!”

A hint of a smile appeared on his lips. “Looks like this expedition isn’t going to be so simple...”

Ding!

Leylin's sudden stop seemed to have triggered some sort of mechanism, and behind him, the metallic walls seemed to have lives of their own as they converged, thus blocking his retreat.

“Crimson Palm!”

Both of Leylin's palms turn blood red once again, crimson flames burning from the claws as he pressed them directly on the converging walls.

Sssii!

As if cold ice had been directly thrown onto a blazing inferno, a sizzling sound of evaporating water was heard.

Under Leylin's hands, the unknown black metal turned completely red and constantly melted, forming puddles of liquid metal that stained the floor.

Over ten seconds later, the metallic walls that had suddenly emerged had a hole that was about one metre deep, and yet there was no sign of the end.

It seemed that in that moment, Leylin's path of retreat had been completely blocked by the black metallic wall.

[Based on the data taken so far, estimated thickness of metal wall: 45-47 metres. There is also a huge amount of the Manker Alloy found in the middle. Estimated time required for Host to entirely break through: 30 Minutes 56 Seconds!]

The A.I. Chip projected blue lines of data in front of Leylin.

“Half an hour. That’s much too long!”

Leylin wasn’t so naive to think that the Magus who had designed the trap would be so kind as to give him time to escape.

Sure enough, the longer amount of time Leylin stayed in there, the black metal in front of him also started to distort and gather in the centre as if it had a life of its own.

The passage became increasingly narrow, to the point that only one person would be able to pass through.

“I can’t let this go on any longer. Otherwise, I’ll be stuck in the middle of a huge metal sphere. It’ll take too much magic power and spiritual force to get out!”

Leylin glanced at the wall that had a large hole in it and rushed forward.

Zoom!

With the help of his burly physique and his magic, Leylin's speed was already past the limits of a regular human. All that was left of him were a few long after images.

The passage ahead seemed to sense Leylin's approach and converged at an even quicker rate!

"Hah!" Leylin breathed in deeply and quickly spat out a few punctuated syllables!

In a split second, the blood-red layer on his body expanded, the flames' range achieving half a metre, emitting a fervent heat.

Leylin seemed to have been possessed by some ancient flaming creature, and with his body cloaked in crimson flames, he darted quickly towards the small crack left between the black metal!

Bang!

The entire passageway jolted slightly, and the sound of corrosion sounded.

Right as the metallic walls were about to converge, Leylin had forced his way out, leaving behind a human-shaped gap. Droplets of liquidised black metal were still dripping incessantly.

Leylin's charge had lasted for almost an entire minute, and he

only stopped the flames when his field of view opened up.

“What a troublesome passage!”

Leylin looked at the black passage behind him that had completely closed up. This sort of passageway might not be able to kill a Magus, but it was able to make the opponent waste large amounts of spiritual and magic force, and just the slightest bit of hesitance would entrap the Magus within it. It would consume a lot of magic power to fire a spell, and by the time the Magus' spiritual force and magic power had been mostly used, coupled with the curses and traps, it was enough to inflict serious damage, or even kill the intruder!

“This trap should have several parts to it, which implies that this is the area where the next part will be activated!”

Leylin surveyed his surroundings.

This used to be a garden or a place where plants were cultivated. It had a large area, and streams of man-made sunlight shone upon the land. Those were the Sunbeam Moss, which were tenaciously exhibiting their usefulness. There was also evidence of plants wilting.

“Though this is just a small-scaled garden, it seems to have been well taken care of. It's such a waste that it was abandoned...”

Leylin constantly swept his eyes over the garden.

His time at the Four Seasons Garden's secret plane had allowed him to identify a few plants from their remnants.

“The Three Horned Flower, Spirit Breaking Grass, as well as the Half Bodied Bat, Upside Down Lizard– These four are the main cultivators of this garden!

“The Three Horned Flower pollinates with the help of Half Bodied Bat, and the excretion from the Inverted Lizard is the best fertilizer for the Spirit Breaking Grass! In the middle of the region where the Three Horned Flower and Spirit Breaking Grass are located, there also seems to be a Star Fruit. This is what the Half Bodied Bat and Inverted Lizard feed on!

“This method of growing them...” A light flashed in Leylin's blue eyes.

“This can increase the output of the Half Bodied Bat by 50%, the Inverted Lizard by 40% and the Three Horned Flower and Spirit Breaking Grass by 10%...”

Constructing a garden outside a laboratory must have been to make it convenient to make potions and other items that would be useful in experiments.

The reason why Leylin was calculating the output of the plants and animals so carefully was because he wanted to probe and find signs of experimentation.

Just based on these clues, brilliant Magi could deduce the scope of experimentation and the laboratory's uses in ancient times.

With the knowledge that the A.I. Chip had gathered from the Four Seasons Garden's library, Leylin's knowledge was very profound. With the added aid from the A.I. Chip's calculations, he would also be able to make a fairly accurate guess.

"A.I. Chip! Search for similar ancient potion formulas that primarily require these four ingredients!"

Though the number of formulas that Leylin had received were few, the ingredients required to make ancient potions were made public. Only the steps to brew the potion had been written in code on the formula, and as a result, the A.I. Chip had gathered quite a lot of information.

[Beep! Entering simulated data! Searching database for compatible potions!]

The A.I. Chip loyally intoned.

Rows of data flowed, finally stopping on a few columns.

[Spirit Fusion Potion. Similarity: 79% Effect: Able to boost fusion between different spirits by a large margin, producing a new consciousness from a fused body.] [Rejecting Spirits Removal Potion. Similarity: 56%. Effect: Able to eliminate confusion

between spirits while fusing and stabilise the new spirit body.]
[Wolfiporia Potion. Similarity: 34%. Effect: Able to boost the power of the spirit by a large margin! Side effects: Spirit's consciousness will be expelled to a certain extent.]

Leylin examined the information pertaining to these potions, and the look on his face became more serious.

A period of time later, he sighed slowly. "These potions all complement each other. From the looks of it, I seem to have discovered something amazing!"

"Oooh..."

Just when Leylin was thinking of exploring further, a low and hoarse voice sounded, and an enormous and warped figure appeared in the line of Leylin's sight.

It was a huge monster that was about 10 metres tall.

There were numerous frightful wounds that were sewn together, and it looked to be the result of putting different body parts together.

This stitched up monster's right hand was twisted in a weird shape and had eight fingers. In the palm of its left hand was a large axe that was dotted with rust.

Other than the two large arms, there were many slim arms

grown on its upper body and back which were continuously trembling.

“This is a type of vengeful spirit... the Loathsome Evil!”

Leylin sucked in a cold breath. “Such a huge physique! How much blood and flesh had to be sacrificed for its body to still be so solid?”

[Alert! Alert! High levelled creature approaching with a strong contamination of spirits! According to the Host’s level, the threat is at a Grade 5!]

The A.I. Chip frantically warned.

Chapter 179: Fierce Battle

The Loathsome Evil was a creature that Leylin had seen in ancient books. It was a type of life form that had been created by Magi.

Its exact origin was unknown, but Leylin could very clearly remember that in ancient books, the Loathsome Evil had been described as a fiend.

This type of lifeform had an exceedingly powerful body and vitality. What was even more frightening was the spirit pollution constantly emanating from its body.

Ordinary people were simply unable to withstand the pollution caused to their spirits and usually died en masse.

As a result, the appearance of a Loathsome Evil generally marked the destruction of cities and the loss of countless lives.

The most frightening record had been when an entire army of over a hundred Loathsome Evils appeared!

This terrifying army had destroyed two ancient Magi's headquarters and caused the deaths of approximately twenty percent or more of the population of the south coast.

Ultimately, only with the aid from an unknown ancient Morning

Star Magus was that terrible army completely destroyed.

“I didn’t expect the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect to have created this Loathsome Evil! Then again, the timing is just right!”

Within Leylin’s eyes, there appeared a flash of understanding.

Based on the annals of the Magus world’s history, after the disaster caused by the Loathsome Evils, the Spirit Slaying Sect sank into a weird state of affairs. First, they proclaimed their conviction that a supreme Magus had descended, and then they ruled this world. Soon after, they carried a very large scale blood and flesh sacrifice and thereby disappeared from this Magus world.

Now, it was clear to him that the thriving Spirit Slaying Sect had offended the Magi of the south coast, so the Magi had all joined hands to destroy this sect.

At this moment, the Loathsome Evil that had been wandering around noticed Leylin.

Through its eyes, one of which was big and the other small, its thirst for blood was self-evident. Even its huge, bloated body was trembling in excitement.

A light green haze permeated the entire garden.

“Spirit Pollution!” Leylin’s expression became grim, as he recognised the most dreadful attack from this Loathsome Evil.

“Kemoyin’s Scales!”

With a single thought, a fine layer of scales covered his body. The scales were jet-black and densely packed as they crept up Leylin’s arms and even his face.

Under the protection of the scales, Leylin’s current appearance was vastly different. There was even a hint of amber light in his eyes.

These scales did not give him a fiendish image, but rather, with the influence and charm that a Warlock’s bloodline gave him, there was a sense elegance to his appearance.

Even a regular human would think there was a wild aesthetic to Leylin.

If Leylin was a sub-human and part of the Snake family, he’d even be treated as a precious tribute to the queen snakes of various families, though Leylin would definitely be unwilling to go through with it.

After activating his innate defense spell, Leylin was still unsatisfied and used his palm to stroke his neck.

A dark red light exploded from his neck, and like the scales, descended until it covered his entire body, forming something that seemed like armour.

Leylin was especially cautious when dealing with this fearsome Spirit Pollution. Not only had he activated his innate defense spell, he'd even used his trump card, the Fallen Star Pendant.

Not only did the might of an ancient Loathsome Evil surpass that of a rank 1 Magus, Leylin was unsure of what the Spirit Slaying Sect's Magi had done to increase its strength, making it even more troublesome.

Leylin wasn't willing to risk anything—harm done to one's spirit was much more difficult to treat than flesh wounds!

At that moment, other than the red membrane layer, Leylin had also had activated his two main items for defence—Kemoyin's Scales and the Fallen Star Pendant.

Just as Leylin had finished his preparations, the light green haze had reached his location.

Bzzt!

The moment the haze enveloped him, Leylin suddenly felt faint. Immediately after, the red light in his sea of consciousness rippled, and the crystal in the centre sent out a wave of spiritual force, dispersing his giddiness.

Chik Chik!

The moment Leylin's outermost crimson layer of protection came into contact with the haze, the sound of an object being corroded could be heard. Within a few seconds, it was completely broken through.

Next, the phantom armour from Fallen Star Pendant started producing unbearable sounds, the energy from its reserves constantly being consumed.

“It hasn't gone through my defences, but to think that this was the effect of the spirit pollution!”

Leylin trained his eye on the Loathsome Evil that was gradually approaching, the fear in his expression becoming increasingly apparent.

“Roarr!”

Two thick arms suddenly grew from its back and touched the ground, supporting the Loathsome Evil.

With a burst of power, the Loathsome Evil's speed rapidly increased, and it dashed towards Leylin, slashing at his waist with the axe in his left hand!

Before that massive power reached him, the air in the atmosphere seemed to be compressed into crystals that hurtled towards Leylin!

With a gleam in his blue eyes, Leylin ducked through the crack in the axe by twisting his body at an unbelievable angle.

“Latent Fireball!”

After dodging this attack, Leylin looked around and saw that the garden had been almost completely engulfed by the green haze. Unless he killed this Loathsome Evil, it would have been impossible to pass through.

In any case, Leylin didn’t believe that the ancient Magi would let him leave so easily.

Hence, Leylin struck back fiercely, using the spell that had the most might!

Boom!

Along with the syllables that flew out of Leylin’s mouth, a large number of black fireballs suddenly appeared around the Loathsome Evil’s figure.

These fireballs quickly merged into a single mass, its volume expanding to ten times the usual size, and exploded in front of the Loathsome Evil.

Black flames engulfed the Loathsome Evil, and many of its slim arms were broken off from the explosion.

Just from a single little black spark landing on the ground, a hole was melted that was so deep, one could not see how far down it went.

[Attacking target in the centre! Power of Latent Fireball: 51. Added bonus from elemental essence conversion: 21. Target's defense in its front has been destroyed! Received data readings!"]

A prompt from the A.I. Chip sounded out.

Out of all the spells Leylin possessed, the Latent Fireball was a magic that was second only to the Eyes of Petrification. Currently, with the added bonus from his elemental essence conversion, its degree of power was a terrifying total of 51!

Even an ancient monster like the Loathsome Evil could only tremble under the might of these flames!

[Beep! Loathsome Evil. Strength: 34. Agility: 19. Vitality: 40. Spiritual force: 25. Special Abilities: 1. Spirit Pollution. The Loathsome Evil will always be surrounded by Spirit Pollution similar to that emitted by ancient Magi. Once a spirit is infected, the creature will be cursed for eternity, and eventually wither away! 2. Devour: Loathsome Evil can heal injuries by consuming large amounts of flesh. At the same time, devouring large numbers of spirits will help the Loathsome Evil to evolve into stronger creatures!]

Seeing the data that the A.I. Chip had analysed, Leylin looked at

the monster howling in pain within the dark flames with a sense of admiration.

“This power is comparable to that of a Magus with a 50% elemental essence conversion. If an army of Loathsome Evils is formed with an even more powerful leader taking charge, it’ll definitely be difficult for Magus organisations to handle it. They would need to escape...”

Leylin was admiring the Loathsome Evil, but this was still a battle, and Leylin instantly cast another Latent Fireball.

Countless black fireballs emerged from the shadows and rushed towards the large mass of flames, causing it to burn even more vigorously.

Although Leylin possessed an interest in this Loathsome Evil, he would only extract some tissues and fluids from it after its death. He was definitely not planning on catching it live.

Hence, after seeing that the Latent Fireball was effective, Leylin immediately produced large numbers of the black fireballs, determined to kill off the Loathsome Evil in one go!

“Grah!”

The Loathsome Evil within the flames roared terrifyingly as it trembled on the floor, the many slim arms on its body melting and falling off.

Boom!!!

The black flames burnt through the Loathsome Evil's belly, and instantly, innumerable spirits escaped out of its stomach.

These spirits' faces were those of females and males of all ages, and most of these spirits were weirdly shaped. If they didn't have an extra hand on their faces, there would be an extra three legs on their bodies. Some even had various organs and structures stuck on their bodies and looked extremely similar to the Loathsome Evil.

The similarities between all of these spirits was a lifeless look in their eyes as if they had lost all intelligence.

“Don't tell me... This is a base where the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect creates Loathsome Evils?” Seeing this scene, Leylin compared his current conjectures with his previous guesses and came up with a conclusion.

These spirits mindlessly dithered around the Loathsome Evil and seemed to hardly be afraid of the black flames. They passed through without any trouble, and Leylin's expression darkened.

“This! Could it be that...” Leylin suddenly had an idea.

He immediately threw out several potions, and even mixed in pink pearls that were sure to cause damage to spirits!

However, it was too late.

With a high pitched cry from the Loathsome Evil, the surrounding spirits promptly blew up!

Boom!

The old witch's method used to explode spirits seemed to have appeared once again!

However, this explosion included potentially hundreds of spirits exploding at the same time. Its power far outstripped what the old witch had shown the previous time!

The black flames on the Loathsome Evil's body were extinguished in the explosion.

The waves from the frightening explosion hit Leylin.

Poof! The defensive layer from the Fallen Star Pendant suddenly flashed and fell apart like a soap bubble.

Leylin was sent flying, as if he had collided with the head of a train, and destroyed countless buildings as he fell back. There was a long line on the ground, tracing the path that he had been pushed back.

“Why didn’t I detect such a frightening skill?” Leylin was startled and even a little angry.

[Detecting a force field that has been partitioned in a second defensive layer within the target’s belly!]

A prompt from the A.I. Chip emerged once again.

Chapter 180: Sneak Attack

Although the A.I. Chip's ability had been upgraded and strengthened by many-fold, but within this strange Magus world, it was still not as good as he desired.

Due to the earlier mistake, Leylin was not in the mood to go and investigate.

And by now, the Loathsome Evil had already approached him to attack!

On the present vengeful spirit Loathsome Evil's body, the majority of its hands had been cut off and it still had many burnt black patches and within its belly, a large hole had been cut open. This exposed its intestines and other unknown organs.

But these did not affect the vengeful spirit Loathsome Evil's mobility.

On the contrary, to one's eyes, the Loathsome Evil appeared to emit a scarlet radiance. Compared to before, it seemed to have become more fiendish.

The veins on its body seemed to be intertwined and protruding out, and they were like cyan snakes that were twisted about each other as this Loathsome Evil came at Leylin.

Many of its body flesh and fat had become abnormal because it had been burnt, but its speed was faster than before.

“Fuck!”

The scales on Leylin’s body trembled a bit and the dust and pebbles sticking to it fell to the ground.

Although the recent spirit explosion was violent, but after it passed through the defense of the Fallen Star Pendant, its damage power was reduced and then it was entirely resisted by the Kemoyin Scales on his body.

For the present, although Leylin’s body received a tremendous jolt, he almost had no other injury.

At this moment, the giant Loathsome Evil attacked with a flying speed, while it unceasingly spread out waves of the spirit plague.

“Shadow Concealment!”

When Leylin saw this scene, his mouth continuously chanted the spell. At the same time, the scales on his body emitted a dark lustre. As this dark light passed through him, his body became rather transparent.

Soon, the giant Loathsome Evil collided with the shadow of Leylin and went past and shattered a rotten flower pot that was behind Leylin, which burst into pieces.

During this time period of more than a year, Leylin, using the accumulated contribution points, exchanged them for many spell models. So here, Leylin utilised the Shadow Concealment spell of which he had a profound impression.

Before, within the Dylan Gardens, the Black Horrall Snake's attacks made it an unforgettable event for Leylin.

If it hadn't been for his natural cautiousness and also the fact that the additional firepower from his comrades, the outcome of the battle with the Black Horrall Snake would have turned out different.

After that time, he began to be interested in the Darkness element stealth spells. Eventually, when he was exchanging his contribution points within the Four Seasons Garden, he happened to discover these spell models.

[Darkness element's Shadow Concealment. Rank 1 spell. Its effects are: After the Magus cast this spell, he could hide within the crack of the shadow world and he would be immune to the attacks that happen in the real world. Time of concealment: 20s Elemental essence conversion bonus: 14s. It consumes a spiritual force of 10 and magic power of 10.]

This spell was entirely complementing his elemental affinity. Besides, the Kemoyin's Scales on Leylin's body also seemed to have magnified the effect of this spell.

Therefore, Leylin had expended a great deal of effort into learning this spell.

And after this spell, he had no longer any weak points with regards to his agility and concealment.

Leylin thoroughly took in the sensation of being in concealment.

This was a very strange feeling — time flowed as if it had been slowed by a tenfold. The surrounding atmosphere also felt very constricting. Each of Leylin's movement needed to consume even more strength than when he was in normal environments.

Leylin glanced at the Loathsome Evil.

It was now giving vent to its fury on the land surrounding it, as it had lost its original target.

The Loathsome Evil, by chopping with its huge hatchet, carved out many ditches in the surroundings, causing them to be in a complete mess.

Leylin noticed that the body of Loathsome Evil had a strange green tint to it — no, that's not it all, even the surrounding scenery, land and atmosphere was being polluted by a shining green mist. This green mist was very dense — it even made Leylin feel dizzy and he felt the sensation of wanting to throw-up.

Leylin's body felt as if it was hovering in mid-air; it slowly floated

towards the Loathsome Evil.

The Loathsome Evil seemed to sense something and brandished the enormous hatchet in its left hand; as it did so, the enormous orange yellow hatchet swung at Leylin's waist.

If Leylin was currently in his physical form, he would already have been chopped into two halves.

But the current him was just a shadow in reality. When the enormous hammer swung past, his body just wavered.

The giant Loathsome Evil frantically brandished its hatchet. It often struck at Leylin's body, but not even a single piece of the clothing Leylin wore was torn.

It came closer... and closer!

Leylin kept himself in the sliding position and hovered above the Loathsome Evil's. When he looked down, he could see the constantly secreted yellow pus of the Loathsome Evil and the disordered teeth in its large mouth.

Swish!

With a flash of a black shadow, Leylin directly appeared in front of the Loathsome Evil.

Currently, Leylin's pupils had already changed to an amber colour, seemingly giving a peculiar gaze.

“Look into my eyes!” Leylin spoke with a strange tone as it brought a hissing sound with it. It was as though a snake was speaking.

Innate spell — the Eye of Petrification!!!

That voice seemed to carry a weird power. The Loathsome Evil couldn't help but look into Leylin's eyes with a bizarre expression.

Creak! Creak!

A greyish white halo started to shoot out from the Loathsome Evil's eyes and its face seemed to be constantly expanding.

“Roar!”

When the petrification effect had affected the entire head of the Loathsome Evil, it suddenly raised its head and roared.

Following the roar, the Loathsome Evil's flesh bulged. There was also two enormous solid flesh that suddenly appeared on its shoulder. It looked like it had grown two arms.

While its flesh was transforming, the greyish skin on the Loathsome Evil face's shedded. It was like a snake shedding its

skin.

[The target's physique is too large. It is starting to develop immunity to the petrification! Based on current situation, remaining time it will stay rigid: 3 seconds!]

The A.I. Chip gave out a notification.

As expected, the movement of the Loathsome Evil slowed down. It opened its mouth and maintained an eccentric smiling expression. It was like a machine that had not yet been wound up, making it stop in a peculiar condition.

“This is a great opportunity!”

Leylin's eyes lit up. Numerous black fireballs entered the Loathsome Evil's mouth, causing continuous explosions within its body.

“Falling Star Pendant! Activate the remaining power!”

Leylin shouted and a faint red light ray appeared beneath his neck.

When the light ray consolidated in Leylin's hand, it formed a long blade.

Leylin stared at the Loathsome Evil and with a roar, the muscles

on its arm bulged, expanding a few folds. It instantly made changed from a lean youth to a muscular man.

Leylin's body was filled with an explosive power at this moment.

He raised the blade with both his hand and leaped highly and performed a jump slash against the neck of the Loathsome Evil that was still burning with black flames!

Gurgle! Splat

The yellowish green pus splattered everywhere. Simultaneously, the enormous head of the Loathsome Evil directly rolled onto the ground.

After losing its head, the Loathsome Evil's four limbs were still moving. It was as though it was trying to flee.

Leyin's eyes was serene as he constantly tossed out streaks of purple medicine that landed on the enormous body and head of the Loathsome Evil.

Boom!

A purplish red flame started to violently ignite.

The flame enveloped the Loathsome Evil's body and head.

Crack! The head of the Loathsome Evil split apart and a group of grotesque-looking spirits appeared.

However, Leylin was already prepared for that as he tossed a pink gemstone into the flames, while constantly chanting.

The unconscious spirits were attracted to the pink crystal. They forgot to self destruct and just surrounded in front of the pink gemstone with their faces expressing reminiscing expression.

“Success! With the previous calculations by the A.I. Chip, the Derkoff Spirit Enticing Spell has been upgraded!”

Excitement flashed past Leylin’s face. He then rapidly carved runes and incantations on the ground around the flames, and constantly tossed various materials into the flame.

Finally, the purplish red flame already changed completely into a pure purple colour. The group of spirits were constantly dissolving, they were melting like heated wax.

At this moment, a lot of the spirits wanted to self-destruct!

“Activate!” Looking at the densely-packed spirits, Leylin’s lips curled up into a smile as he chanted the incantation.

Boom! A red halo lit up from the array, restraining all of the spiritual energy within the flame.

That light ray seemed to restrict the spirits from self-destructing. The spirits within expressed frantic expressions despite them being emotionless existences, and not a single one of them could self-destruct as they did before.

Mournful and piercing screams constantly rang in his ears.

Leylin could even feel the most painful wail from the Loathsome Evil.

While the purple flames were constantly burning, a strange smell constantly spread.

The Loathsome Evil's corpse that was at the center of the flame had already stopped moving. Moreover, under the effect of flames, from its fat body, a fatty, oily and viscous liquid began to flow down and around the surface of its body.

This fluid was extremely viscous and its colour was an odd black.

As that black, oily liquid constantly flowed, the corpse of the Loathsome Evil gradually became smaller, as though it was shrinking.

The ten-meter-long, enormous body started to shrink to the height of an ordinary person and finally became a monkey-like form with wrinkled body.

“This.....”

Leylin looked transfixed at the constantly shrinking head of the Loathsome Evil.

When the head was completely dehydrated, an ordinary head appeared before Leylin’s eyes.

Even though the skin was filled with creases, Leylin was able to recognise that this was a head of a western, middle-aged man, aged roughly 30 years or near about.

“It looks like the main ingredient in making this Loathsome Evil’s body is a human body. Moreover, the manufacturing of its huge body is by inserting an enormous amount of crazed spirits into the human body and making them fuse together.....”

This method made Leylin felt as though the human body was a womb and was nurturing something.

“The fusion rate with the human body was extremely high as those Loathsome Evils were originally human spirits. It’s unknown how the Spirit Slaying Sect was able to solve the problem in fusing the spirits into the body. It’s the key skill!”

Leylin’s thoughts constantly revolved.

He had a feeling that this wasn’t the final stage in the experiment on this Loathsome Evil.

The frantic spirits would finally breakout from the body after undergoing constant fusion with the body of the Loathsome Evil. They would get much stronger as they grow, creating a more sinister being in existence!

Chapter 181: Living Organism No. 1

Leylin was watching the process of the Loathsome Evil coming together.

The spirit within the array was finally incinerated as the purple flame gradually extinguished.

Swish! The entire light ray from the spell formation completely shattered.

Leylin walked into the formation.

The smell of something burning wafted in the air, along with a repulsive stench that could make one feel nauseous.

“This odour is just like when something from the sewers is burnt!” Leylin frowned and walked to the center.

The human corpses had long since been burnt to ashes.

On the ground, in the middle of the charred and indented formation, a glistening object caught Leylin’s eye.

Lying in the pit were fragments of green crystals, sparkling and splendid like little diamonds.

Leylin covered his hand with a layer of scales and grabbed ahold of the little diamonds.

“Quite light, but very solid!” Leylin kept applying pressure using his palm to the point that his joints popped, but even with his strength of 7.1, he was still unable to do anything to the little diamonds.

“...” All of a sudden, a low chant of salutations entered Leylin’s ear, seeming to have been produced from within the green diamonds.

Filled with curiosity, Leylin brought the diamonds closer to his ear.

“Thank you, young man!”

In an instant, a dazzling white light seemed to fill the entire flower garden. In the white light, Leylin looked at tens of thousands of phantom human figures.

The countenances of these phantoms seemed familiar; they were the spirit bodies of earlier, but they had assumed their original form of a human.

The phantoms were both male and female. Some of them were dressed like Magi and acolytes. However, at this moment, they expressed gentle smiles as they slowly faded in the white light.

“En!” Leylin looked at the surroundings. As if it was due to the death of the Loathsome Evil, the green coloured plague quickly retreated, once again revealing the flower garden.

As for the spirit bodies from earlier, they had all disappeared without a trace, as if he were just dreaming.

However, Leylin knew that he wasn't hallucinating.

At this moment, the A.I. Chip's voice rang out.

[Scan complete! Item identified as spirit crystals! This is the essence remaining after the ignition of a huge amount of spirits!] In ancient compendiums, these were one of the many favourite currencies that many experts in different planes liked to use.

“Spirit crystals!” Leylin understood.

He had heard about this item before, but only high-level Magi could effectively use them.

It was impossible for a mere rank 1 Magus to break the surface of a spirit crystal to extract a spirit's power from within.

“No matter what, it will definitely be useful in the future!” Leylin picked up the green coloured spirit crystals littered on the floor, carefully placing them inside a small pouch. He even used a gold thread to seal the pouch, before placing it back in his robes.

The green spirit plague had completely vanished. Many fine cracks that looked like lizards littered the black rock walls at the edge of the garden.

Leylin walked in front of the cracks, and gently knocked on the fractured wall!

Crash!

Numerous stones fell, and large clouds of lime were thrown into the air. There was a deep hole in the wall, which was flickering with pitch black light rays.

A black glint of light flashed through his eyes.

He quickly plucked off a strand of his hair, and his mouth began to move as he chanted mysterious incantations.

The long black hair fell to the ground and constantly expanded, eventually turning into something that resembled a black snake.

This small snake had densely packed scales and a pair of red little eyes that looked like jewels. It was pocket sized, and did not look malevolent; on the contrary, it was rather adorable.

The little snake first coiled around Leylin, hissing its tongue. It licked Leylin's shoes and then slithered into the pitch black

crevice.

Leylin shut both his eyes, maintaining a connection with the little snake through a thread of spiritual force. Images and sounds were projected before Leylin's eyes.

The lighting in the surroundings was very dim, but it wasn't a problem for the little black snake.

Through the eyes of the black snake, Leylin could see that the interior of the crevice looked like an ore mine with huge amounts of roots creeping in the surroundings.

The roots intertwined across the walls as if they were covering the surroundings of the cave like a fishnet.

The little snake continued to traverse into the cave. After slithering for about a kilometer, the little snake reached a yellow tree root that was like a wall that blocked its path.

"This is... a Misleading Mist Tree Root, an ancient defensive system to deter intruders!"

Leylin's heart was filled with glee. With the appearance of such a mechanism, it showed that he was nearing the experiment lab.

"Intruder! Answer one question of mine, or else you'll be ripped into pieces!" from the large trunk of the tree, the face of an old man emerged. The old man stared into the little snake's eyes as if it

could see Leylin, who was controlling it.

“Ask!” Leylin gave off a wave of spiritual force through the little black snake. “Please state your question!” Leylin gave off his spiritual energy force directly through the black little snake.

“What has the face of a diamond, eyes like pearls, and in the winter, the maker of this object gives it a chance to reincarnate?”

“Hmm...” Leylin lowered his head, looking to be deep in thought. Though, in actuality, he was commanding, “A.I. Chip! Search database!”

[Beep! According to the clues provided to the Host, items that fit the description are: 1. Gemstone Starfish. Similarity: 97%. 2. Ocean Bed Sunflower: 78%. 3...]

The A.I. chip instantly gave the result.

“It’s the Gemstone Starfish!” The snake said in front of the Misleading Mist Tree Root.

“Correct!” The Misleading Mist Tree Root let out an ear piercing holler. Like pulling out a radish from the ground, the tree’s roots were uplifted, revealing the pathway behind it.

“As a reward, you now have the authority to go through!” The countenance of the old man on the Misleading Mist Tree Root revealed a smile.

“A reward, huh? I don’t think so!”

The small snake shook its head and climbed through the passage.

Pa! In an instant, a giant tree root, like a huge palm, blocked the small snake’s path ahead.

“I have permitted the Magus behind you to go, but not a magical creature like you!” Anger welled up on the old face of the root.

“Young Magus, are you belittling me?”

“It is a part of me, so I believe it has the right to enter!” The little snake raised its head, making eye contact with the giant face.

“No! You must personally come over!” The Misleading Mist Tree Root was stubborn in this aspect.

“If that’s the case...” The little black snake lowered its head as if pondering over something.

Suddenly, the little snake coiled up and immediately darted through the passage.

Pa!

Suddenly, there were numerous bolts of black lightning that flashed into the originally peaceful pathway .Those flashes looked alive as they struck towards the little snake.

In the sea of sparks, the little snake was burnt to a crisp.

“It’s a trap indeed! Grade 5 and higher Black Prison Thunder, and there’s so much of it. The tree root really invested a lot in this attack...”

Outside the entrance to the garden, Leylin looked towards the mud tunnel and smiled mockingly.

This Misleading Mist Tree Root was just a trap in the first place! Even if an intruder got the answer correct, he or she would still be lured into a trap.

It was a pity that after so many years, there was something wrong with the Misleading Mist Tree Root’s intelligence. Leylin felt that something was wrong because it seemed to be much too anxious.

No matter how good a trap was, once it was found out, it was just another joke.

At this moment, a strong tremor came from the tunnel that Leylin stood in front of. There was even an ancient voice, “I’ll kill you! I’m going to kill you, intruder!”

The walls of the ore mine seemed to be propped up by the roots of the tree. As they struggled to come out, it caused a huge chain reaction.

“This creature’s vitality and strength are most likely above that of the Loathsome Evil. Moreover, as it is a plant, its life force is extremely tenacious, and it has resistances against spiritual force attacks. It’ll be much more difficult to deal with than the Loathsome Evil, so if I was to fight it on its own territory inside the ore mine, as long as it would be willing, it could bury me alive at any time!”

Leylin pondered before raising his head, grinning mischievously.

“It’s a pity, however, that such a plant organism like that has a strong weakness to something I have recently developed in the lab! I’ll use it now!”

Leylin took out a nitrogen crystallised test-tube from the sack that he carried. There were no potions inside the test-tube. There was only a black organism on the bottom with a pair of translucent wings as if it was an insect.

After looking at this item, Leylin’s expression became serious.

“I don’t know if letting this thing out will be good or bad, but I have to give it a try....”

Leylin muttered to himself.

This was an item that he had unintentionally created.

Inside the test-tube was a type of termite found only in the Magus World. Leylin had discovered it while getting rid of the pests inside the Four Seasons Garden.

As the sequence of genes was different from other termites, they were extremely strong, and hence, were taken back by Leylin, who had later discovered a secret.

These termites had an extremely strange gene that will exponentially increase their life force and reproductive capabilities.

That speed was already beyond what was natural. Judging from Leylin's knowledge, this should have been made up of poisons and cells from another world.

After many instances of failing, Leylin could only increase the abilities of these termites with the help of the microscopic capabilities of the A.I. Chip, turning them into a weapon to deal with plant organisms!

It seemed like now was the right time to use it.

“Come! Let me see what happens when the strange items of the Magus world are coupled with modern scientific skills!”

[Host is about to release Living Organism No. 1! According to the settings, please input the parameters for self-destruction!]

At this time, the A.I. chip replied again.

“5 minutes!”

Leylin put a thread of his spiritual force into the test-tube, after which, he put several drops of another red potion into it as if making his final preparations.

After that, he looked at the shaking tunnel. The Misleading Mist Tree Root was still writhing around, trying to reach him.

“Enjoy your death now!”

Leylin sneered, opened the test tube, and directed the termite into the hole.

Chapter 182: Experiment Lab #1

“A.I. Chip! Record the data, and create a folder on the experiment’s results!”

While Leylin released the termite, he pressed on his temple with one of his hands, making a bright blue light shoot out from his eyes, and shine directly into the hole.

Under Leylin’s observation, the termite directly climbed on top of a tree root after being freed.

The termite was like a speck of dust compared to the enormous Misleading Mist Tree Root, so it didn’t arouse the attention of the massive tree.

[Living Organism No. 1 showing violent growth, and starting to propagate!]

In the graphic shown by the A.I. Chip, the termite, which was represented by a red dot, stayed on the yellow brown roots for a while, before its life force began to increase tremendously, turning into a bright crimson red dot. Furthermore, many small dots began to appear in the graphic, scattering throughout the roots.

It seemed to have a domino effect. When the red light intensified, it grew from covering a root to instantly covering the entire wall, and drew close to the Misleading Mist Tree Root.

“What is this...Argh...”

Following which, the Misleading Mist Tree Root’s screams could be heard throughout the garden.

Leylin could still hear the dense, hair raising, terrifying screams while he was at the entrance of the hole.

As for the termites, they had now filled the entire body of the Misleading Mist Tree Root.

What seemed like billions of termites began to open their incisors, and mercilessly chomped down on the roots. Within only a couple of minutes, the Misleading Mist Tree Root was riddled with holes.

The Misleading Mist Tree Root’s screams become weaker, until it finally came to a stop.

.....

Buzz Buzz...

The sound of flapping wings could be heard. A large cloud of termites was seen flying out from the hole. They were like locusts, devouring the remaining plants in the garden.

After devouring all of the plants, the flying termites began to buzz in fury.

[Alert! Alert! Intense energy waves emitting from the organisms' spiritual force. Previously inputted spiritual force has failed, termites entering a frenzied state!]

As the A.I. Chip called out, all of the flying termites began to mysteriously stop as they turned to Leylin, looking at him with bloodshot eyes.

“As expected, impromptu experiments are always filled with surprises. However, it's a pity that time is up!” Leylin was smiling.

When the A.I. Chip's countdown timer of 5 minutes reached 0, all of the termites, which were still flaunting their might, fell to the ground, losing all signs of life.

In the blink of an eye, there was a thick layer of termite corpses on the ground.

This was the security system that Leylin had inputted. It seemed to have an excellent effect.

“These things are filled with unknown characteristics! It seems that I'll still need a lot of experiments on it before I can use it practically.....”

After which, Leylin picked up several of the termites' corpses to

keep as specimens, before walking into the mud tunnel, which had mostly collapsed.

Very soon, he came to where the Misleading Mist Tree Root originally stood. It was a pity, however, that it was now only filled with mud and the remnants of a husk. All traces of the huge tree root's countenance had also disappeared.

“A lot of effort must have been put into this trap!”

Leylin looked at the black tunnel that the Misleading Mist Tree Root had used as bait. The inside of the tunnel was littered with many charred termite corpses.

From the looks of it, they didn't die from the self-destruction coded into their genes, but from the trap laid inside the tunnel.

As for where the Misleading Mist Tree Root once stood, there was another bronze coloured path.

The pathway seemed to be formed using ceramic. It looked extremely crude, but had a unique, good feeling about it.

As for the path, there was even a line of ancient Byron characters, “Tunnel to Experiment Lab #1! Top secret! Only authorized personnel allowed!”

The blood red words made Leylin shudder.

“This material.....”

Leylin touched the bronze coloured ceramic wall. He felt that the material used to make this wall was extremely sturdy. Also, it gave him a similar feeling to the Blood Sobbing Alloy inside the Dylan Gardens. They were both used to isolate spiritual force energy waves.

“If this is really what I think it is, the item that is locked in here must be remarkable!”

The insecurities in Leylin’s heart reached the max.

He cocked his head and pondered, not daring to enter recklessly. Instead, he found an empty space, and took out various items from his robes, creating a strange formation. The appearance of this formation was extremely strange, looking like an inverted “J.” Afterwards, Leylin also carved a similar rune on his robes.

“It seems that I’m really fearful of death!” Leylin’s insecurities lessened after arranging the formation. He mocked himself as he entered the tunnel.

The bronze coloured pathway wasn’t long, and Leylin quickly reached its depths.

There was a small hall and in front of it, there was a black metal door, which was extremely tall, and over 4 meters wide.

On the metal door frame, there were various magic runes with the words 'Experiment Lab #1. Supervisor: Edward' written on it.

The words on the metal door were obviously very old, as there was some dust on it, and it looked slightly beaten.

When Leylin was in front of the doors, two figures entered his field of view

After seeing them, Leylin took the initiative to go forth. "Old Devil and Jaye, where's Brass Ring?"

The old witch and Jaye were the ones that had appeared in front of Experiment Lab #1, while Brass Ring's location was unknown.

"We stepped into a trap set up by the ancient Magi that caused us to become lost! In the trap, every time when we thought our partners were beside us, we had actually been separated and had gone further apart..."

The old witch replied, "When the trap activated, and the four of us entered the different pathways, I was met with a sound illusion that was arranged by the ancient Magi....After an intense battle, I found this place, and met up with Jaye. Her experiences were similar to mine....."

Leylin nodded his head, after which he briefly stated his encounters. As for his abilities and spells, he had naturally glossed

over the narration of that area.

He then said, “In this case, we should just wait for Brass Ring...”

“We don’t have to anymore! I can sense that Brass Ring is already dead!” Jaye spoke abruptly, causing Leylin to feel somewhat shocked.

This fellow, who seemed like a female, had seldom spoken ever since the group was formed. She also seemed to be rather close to the old witch, yet her energy waves were not very strong, just at the level of an average rank 1 Magus.

But now...

Leylin could not help but to look at Jaye.

Even though Jaye was still wearing a black cloak, her cloak was tattered. It seemed to bear traces of her battle.

Apart from that, the energy waves from Jaye’s body were fluctuating at an unsteady rate. Sometimes, they had the strength of a peak rank 1 Magus, while at other times, it felt like a fledgling rank 1 Magus who had just advanced. At other times, it would intensify greatly, keeping Leylin guessing.

“Jaye had learned and remembered an extremely special rank 1 spell. We were able to estimate the timing of the death of the magus, so we decided to wait for you here!”

Jaye seemed rather antisocial, and she would not speak unless it was of the utmost importance. Everything else was explained by the old witch.

“Is that right?” Leylin was a little doubtful, as the rank 1 magic of the Magus World was extremely peculiar. There was an unknown amount of Magi that built on spells that their ancestors had created or modified in order to create many different unique spells to be passed down, so Leylin wasn’t able to make a decision regarding what the Old Witch had said.

“Since you’re here, let’s take a short break before attempting to enter this Experiment Lab #1!”

The old witch seemed rather zealous. “I have a feeling that the altar I need is right inside!”

Leylin was somewhat speechless. This old witch appeared too impatient.

However, he still walked forward, and touched the black metal door.

Upon contact, an icy cold feeling could be felt as first, before a hotter temperature was felt. As for the sturdy metal door, it gave off a feeling of being indestructible.

From the runes and incantation on the door, Leylin could feel

that this room was not used for experiments, but as a prison of some sort.

There was a brass keyhole at the center of the black door. The ethereal keyhole made Leylin's hair stand on end, and he felt a bone freezing chilliness.

"I can't fully understand the runes on this door, but I'm still able to make out the general meaning of some of the high levelled runes. There is a high levelled solidifying rune, and a metal memory rune. To break open this door, we will have to spend a lot of energy. Perhaps, we should try to find the key!"

Leylin suggested.

"There's no need for that! It's here with me!" The old witch cackled, withdrawing an extremely thick yellow bronze key from her robes.

This key was rather curvy, as if it was a ladle, but it was a perfect fit for the keyhole on the door.

The old witch took the bronze key, and inserted it into the door.

"Wait a minute!" At this moment, a figure appeared in front of her.

"Blood Rogue, what are you doing?" The old witch looked at Leylin, who was blocking her, rage evident on her face.

Jaye immediately stood behind the old witch at this moment. The magic rays emitted from her body caused Leylin's eyelid to twitch.

"It's nothing much, I just feel that the danger within has somewhat exceeded my expectations. I wish to withdraw!" Leylin was extremely calm.

"According to the information I've seen, this Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect has been the advocate behind the scenes of many ancient calamities. Moreover, it had been undergoing extremely dangerous spirit research..."

Leylin's expression was extremely sincere as he continued to talk. "Therefore, I suggest that we temporarily stop this exploration, and attempt to explore again after gaining much greater powers...."

Chapter 183: A Mountain Of White Bones

When the old witch heard Leylin's words, she started at the black haired handsome youth before saying with a dry and hoarse voice.

"I've known you for almost two years and didn't know that you were such a cowardly Magus."

Leylin had given her the impression that he was extremely crazy and daring. He would do anything to reach his goals and did everything without restraints.

"A Magus's life is extremely long so two years isn't a long time. Moreover, to give up after knowing it's dangerous isn't a cowardly action....."

Leylin smiled.

"That is to say that you are unwilling to continue on no matter what?" The old witch asked.

"...." Silence was his response.

Pang! The old witch didn't say anything, but Jaye, who was behind her immediately made her move.

A green-coloured hurricane instantly swept past the area Leylin

was.

Pa! Constant clear sounds were heard.

Following that, a black flame exited the hurricane, which burned half of the small hall and was heading towards Jaye.

“Hmph!” Jaye coldly snorted. Her cloak fluttered without any wind as black energy particles were raised.

When the flame and the energy particles collided against each other in the air, an intense explosion occurred.

Jaye’s body shook and was forced three steps back. The aura from her body became unstable.

“Enough!” The old witch shielded Jaye, with green light rays being emitted from her eyes.

With Leylin’s high leveled observation skills, he knew that she was frantically warning him. He currently didn’t want to go against this old witch so Leylin smiled before moving to the side and eradicated the energy waves that was being emitted from his body.

“Jaye, you too. I’m great friends with Blood Rogue. You don’t have to be so wary of him.” When the old witch saw that Leylin moved to the side, the green rays from her eyes also dimmed before she said that to Jaye who was behind her.

“I understand!” Jaye answered softly.

“Blood Rouge, even though we haven’t been together for long, we should know each other’s personality. State whatever terms you have!”

The progress of the situation was slightly beyond what Leylin had expected.

He originally thought that with the powers that he had displayed and unintentional fight against the old witch, she should reasonably make him leave or explore other places.

Leylin was a reasonable person. He knew that the experiment lab was dangerous and there wasn’t anything worth his attention so he naturally didn’t want to risk it.

However, currently, the Experiment Lab 1 obviously needed his help in opening or to get there so the old witch had to lower her temper.

“To prove your sincerity, you’ve to firstly give me the second half content on the data regarding the compressing spiritual powers!” Leylin straightforwardly stated a condition.

“No problem!” The old witch tossed a green leaf towards Leylin without a single thought.

When Leylin caught it, the A.I. Chip pointed out that it had received a lot of information and images.

From the A.I. Chip's judgment, this data should be the remaining portion of the data she had given from before.

"I shall also include this! How is that? Will that suffice you to risk yourself?"

When the old witch saw that Leylin had caught up in muttering to himself irresolutely, she tossed a black bag at him.

"These items can also tempt some of the peak rank 1 Magus and has high success rates. What do you say?"

Leylin opened the bag and looked slightly moved.

Following that, he looked at the old witch. "I'll accompany you and risk my life with you on behalf of these two years of relationship. However, if I find that something is wrong, we'll retreat straight away and I won't continue to participate in this in the future....."

"That's naturally the case!" The old witch agreed.

After that, she walked past Leylin to insert the bronze key into the lock.

Clang! Dong!

Clang! Dong!

The sound of gears turning could be heard as the old witch turned the key.

The sound was weak at the start, but it got stronger after that. Finally, the entire hall was filled with sounds of gears coming into contact with each other.

Creak!

Streaks of cracks appeared on the black metal door. After a few cracks appeared, it rapidly segregated into countless little black metal pieces. The black metals flew to the sides, revealing the scene of the Experiment Lab #1.

Corpses! What Leylin could only see was countless white human bone remains.

The densely packed bones were layered, forming a small mountain of white bones.

After that, a rotting odour that had been there for many years, accompanied by the scent of death, rotten flesh and negative energy particles that were so dense and couldn't be separated, turned into a black wave rising forth towards the three of them.

This was the Experiment Lab #1 inside the secret plane of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect. It actually formed a scene of the massacre of numerous people.

A black light flashed from Leylin's body to confront the huge, energy-filled wave, making him happily gulp in a few mouthfuls of air.

This was the best environment for someone like — a dark Magus that specialised in the cultivation of Darkness energy particles! Not only would the consumption of his spiritual force and magic power were lower when casting his spells in this environment, but the degree of power his spells could produce would be slightly stronger.

“As expected....It's the same as the records!”

The old witch and Jaye were already prepared as they opened a scroll, where a fiery red shield enveloped them.

The ash-colored negative energy particles constantly surged against the exterior of the shield, but they were burned out by the fire energy particles.

Once the wave had receded, the old witch seemed to not have sustain any injuries. She currently was just staring fixatedly at the mountain of white bones with excitement shown in her eyes.

“According to the information recorded, the altar I need is at the summit of this mountain of white bones.”

The old witch climbed up, using the white bones as her path.

Crack!

The white bones that had existed for an unknown period of time crumbled into powder under her steps, forming an extremely thick layer.

Leylin and Jaye followed slowly behind her.

While Leylin walked, he fiddled with the bones on the ground. Even though many bones had utterly rotted, there were still some complete bones.

Currently, Leylin was detailedly observing a white bone that was slightly thicker than the ones in the surroundings.

“From the shape of this bone, it should be human’s right thigh!” Leylin gauged the weight of the bone in his hand.

“It’s very heavy and this bone clearly had transformed as this isn’t something an ordinary person will have!”

“A.I. Chip! Investigate its content!”

A faint blue light was emitted from Leylin's eyes.

“Beep! Beginning sample data collection and comparing the carbon elements within the bone!”

The A.I. Chip gave its answer, “This right thigh bone is from a person of the Knight rank. Its age is about 5341 years.....”

“The Knight rank?”

Leylin surveyed his surroundings.

At the bottom of this mountain of white bones, its perimeter was the largest and had the most number of bones, but the majority of them were ordinary human bones. There were very few Knight ranked bones.

Following the climb up, there appeared to be Knight ranked bones everywhere. Leylin even found a Grand Knight's bone.

When they were halfway up the mountain, it was completely filled with Knight and Grand Knight's bones. There were even some acolytes' bones.

A Magus's body had a certain concentration of radiation. It was easy to see that even from the bones.

The old witch and Jaye were indefinitely bewildered from the

start and took in a cold breath after seeing these bones.

“From the form, there must be at least 20,000 or more acolytes’ bones buried here and an unknown number of bones belonging to official Magi...”

Leylin released the breath he was holding. “It’s really something on a large scale that can be collected only in ancient times!”

Similarly, he also knew why the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect was annihilated.

No matter what was the reason, killing these many Magi would definitely attract the crowd’s rage. This was different from massacring ordinary people, which resulted in them being severely punished!

The three Magi couldn’t help, but to slow their steps after realising this.

As expected, while they neared the summit, they found numerous official Magi’s corpses!

At the summit, there were often partially rotten corpses and the robe on them could be seen distinctly. Some weren’t rotten as much so they looked as though they were just sleeping.

Moreover, from the radiation emitted from the remnants of the ancient magicians, it was way beyond that of the acolytes. Some of

the remaining aura even made Leylin fearful of them.

“There unexpectedly are some bones that hadn’t entirely rotted.....” The old witch exclaimed.

“The environment was extremely sealed and they seemed to have had anti-rotting measures. Moreover, these Magi aren’t ordinary people so from the circumstances.....”

Leylin calmly replied.

He was currently stepping on a female Magus’s charming face. That Magus’ face had extremely perfected structure with fine eyelashes. Her beautiful eyes could be seen clearly. It was imaginable that this Magus was a rare beauty in the ancient time, but Leylin stepped on her face without any hesitation. It looked just as if he was stepping on stones.

At the current position, the mountain of white bones had become a mountain of corpses and if Leylin and the rest wanted to continue, there had to constantly step on the corpses of the ancient Magi.

“This is blasphemy! Bare naked profaneness! These crazy fellows of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, they disrespect the honor of the Magi!”

It was beyond Leylin’s expectation that Jaye, who was the most antisocial in the group, was the first to condemn their crimes.

“That’s right! However, in ancient times, power decides everything! These Magi were caught by the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect so they had to bear with the outcome.....”

Leylin said.

As a Magus, it was natural to feel a tinge of regret for his fallen fellow Magi. However, in the current Magus World, was this not commonplace?

“Stop bickering. We’re here!”

The old witch that was heading forth in a daze suddenly stopped. Her voice was rueful, but it contained more ferventness and longing!

Chapter 184: The Awakening

Upon hearing her words, Leylin looked up in surprise.

Unconsciously, they had already reached the peak of the mountain of white bones.

Here, it was completely deserted except for the white altar at the peak of the mountain.

If one looked closely, it could be seen that the altar was made entirely out of human bones. These bones emitted energy fluctuations that far exceeded that of a rank 1 Magus and below, and just the aura made the air stifling, even for Leylin.

On some bones that were wider, there were strange runes handwritten in blood.

These runes were extremely complicated. Some were similar to 3D images, and Leylin had never seen any of them before.

What struck him the most was how, even though the runes had existed for over five thousand years, the blood was bright red and still looked fresh, as if ready to drip to the ground.

They were arranged in a strange manner and seemed to form a map.

Leylin took a closer look and realised that he recognised several of the areas in the secret plane. Filled with ecstasy, he immediately got the A.I. Chip to record everything down.

At the very centre of the altar, there was an odd skull used as a sacrifice.

The skull was similar to that of a human's skull, but on the cranium, there were two black, bent horns like that of a goat.

Also, in the middle of the two horns, there was a small round hole that seemed to serve no purpose.

“Is this the spirit altar you were looking for?”

Leylin glanced at the old witch, but her eyes were already fixed on the altar. She was murmuring words in a language that he did not know, and seemed to have forgotten about the existence of the others with her.

What made Leylin more surprised was Jaye, who was beside him. Even with the cover of the huge black cloak, Leylin could tell she was shivering badly.

This discovery worried Leylin, and at the same time, a sense of unease in his heart was intensified.

“It's here. Right here... My darling, I can now help you...”

While mumbling incessantly, the old witch produced a fragment of a piece of parchment and threw it towards the altar.

At the same time, Jaye, who had been shaking all this while, suddenly made her move!

Streams of translucent, faintly green rays of light descended from the heavens and formed a large net, aiming for Leylin. The surrounding air produced a hissing sound, and there seemed to be some undulations in the scenery around them.

“What are you doing?”

Leylin bellowed, though his expression did not undergo much changes.

It was apparent that he had been expecting something like this, and had thus made some preparations.

Boom!

On Leylin’s head, countless black strands of hair seemed to have lives of their own as they wriggled to counter the approaching green net.

Pu Pu!

The instant the half transparent green net and the black strands of hair met, large amounts of white gas emerged, and the sound of corrosion constantly erupted in the air.

With a wave of his hair, Leylin's figure flickered and he shifted over ten metres away from his original spot.

“Madori Defensive Spell Formation!” Jaye, who was in the black cloak, was well aware that Leylin's power surpassed hers. She had acted first in order to gain the upperhand.

While Leylin was dealing with that large net, Jaye had already fixed up a defensive formation around the spirit altar!

“Activate!” Along with Jaye's words, translucent black rays rose around the spirit altar, keeping the altar, Jaye and the old witch protected inside.

“Latent Fireball!” With a flash of Leylin's eyes, countless black fireballs emerged from the shadows, rushing towards the black dome!

Bang!

The numerous black fireballs converged and its volume expanded by more than ten times. With the added bonus of Leylin's elemental essence conversion of 70%, its might had become exceedingly horrifying.

Under this level of attack, an ordinary Magus' innate defensive spell would be completely destroyed within seconds!

The black flames spread, and even with Jaye within the dome trying her very best to maintain it, it was still vibrating vigorously, as if on the verge of breaking.

However, Jaye was unperturbed and chanted a few incantations.

Buzz buzz! From the bottom of the altar, a circle of black light emerged, merging with the defensive spell formation.

Peng!

With the addition of this circle of light, the entire defensive spell formation immediately became more radiant. Its colour was black to the extreme, and it was almost impossible to see the figures behind the formation.

Flames from the Latent Fireball burnt at the surface of the dome for over ten seconds.

But when facing the reinforced defensive spell formation, they could do little but succumb and disperse.

“This...”

Seeing how Jaye seemed to be able to take advantage of the

powers of the laboratory, Leylin hastily moved a few steps backwards.

The old witch was sure to have hidden a lot of information from him. Thinking back to the spirit explosion that she had previously used and what had happened with the Loathsome Evil, Leylin was certain that the old witch had found out about these ruins much earlier, contrasting with what she had said. She must have already reaped a bountiful harvest from within the ruins before this expedition.

“Give up! This is the core of the secret plane. After borrowing a portion of its strength, it’s impossible to break through this defensive formation unless your power has reached such heights that you’re able to destroy this entire secret plane!”

From within the black dome, Jaye’s faint voice was transmitted over. However, there was no hint of joy in her gaze and her eyes were not on Leylin but rather on the witch. There were dozens of complicated emotions on her face-anticipation, joy, and also... fear!

Upon coming into contact with the altar, the yellowed fragmented piece of parchment burst into flames.

These flames were a light yellow and extremely pure. They started off as small as a bean and gradually crept to engulf the entire parchment, the flames turning light blue.

At the same time, the altar seemed to come to life and began to

tremble.

From the gaps between the bones of the altar, fresh red blood trickled down. Dark rays were emitted from the eye sockets of many skulls.

“Old witch! You’d better calm down. It’s obvious that there’s an extremely strong and evil being trapped within the altar. I don’t care if you made a pact or some contract with it, but the strong won’t bother making transactions with the weak.”

Outside the spell formation, Leylin recalled what he had seen and hastily spoke.

“Of course, I know what’s in there! I knew about it 157 years ago! If not for it being in hibernation, and the conditions to awaken it being too harsh, I would have summoned it a long time ago... As long as I summon it, I can...”

The old witch’s facial muscles twisted, her expression crazed as she gestured wildly.

This exposed her knowledge about the ruins.

“You need to think this through. This is an evolved being that escaped out of the Loathsome Evil’s body and is much more sinister and vicious. It’s something the likes of you definitely can’t control.”

As Leylin persuaded her, he'd already left his original position and backed away to where they had climbed up, a ring of Darkness energy particles around his two legs.

"I know better than you how vicious it can get! Even though I can't control it, I know how it was assembled and basically everything there is to know about it. As long as we give enough offerings, with the power of this spirit altar, I can definitely..."

Her eyes were crazed as she spread out her arms and yelled, "Come out! The collective body of vengeance, the manipulator of spirits and bodies! The supreme king, Gargamel!"

"Gargamel?!" Leylin's heart lurched.

Before he had come here, he had seen plenty of records regarding the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect and naturally knew about this Gargamel. It was a being that the sect had worshipped.

They believed that a spirit was the last resting place for all beings, and the Gargamel was the one in charge of all these spirits!

It was apparent that this was a Gargamel that had already taken shape after the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect's immense efforts in cultivating it! However, for some reason, this Gargamel had been sealed here by the Magi of the sect.

The old witch had obviously received the inheritance from the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect and obtained many benefits. She had

also been working hard to unseal the Gargamel.

Leylin believed he had a rough understanding of this whole situation.

The black ring of light around his legs flashed and, wrapped in energy particles, his body's speed reached its limits and he instantly disappeared away from the mountain.

Even though he had no idea why the old witch had swindled him and Brass Ring into coming here, it definitely wasn't anything good!

Leylin felt it was better if he retreated as soon as possible.

As long as he was out of this secret plane, even if the old witch and Jaye attacked together, Leylin was certain he could take care of them.

"A smart move, but it's a pity that it's too late..." Jaye, who was nearby, gave a low sigh.

At this very moment, the piece of parchment on the altar had already been burnt to ashes and, with a cry from the old witch, streams of black gases streamed out of the gaps within the bones of the altar.

Weng Weng!

An ancient devil was awake once more.

An aura that caused one's heart to palpitate in fear arrived on top of the mountain of white bones.

Ice-cold! Evil!

Leylin felt as if he had returned to his childhood, powerless while surrounded by a group of direwolves.

He hated being made aware of how fragile his life was.

Just with the leakage of this aura, the secret plane vibrated slightly.

A vast amount of black gas converged and gradually solidified, forming a gigantic translucent figure.

The figure brought the skull on top of the altar to its face, treating it as a mask. Its two completely red eyes seemed to be looking down on every one of the Magi present as if they were mere ants.

Leylin's heart plummeted, and he could not gather any strength.

“Jiik!” The black figure bellowed towards the heavens.

With the tremendous sound waves, the black defensive spell formation that had caused Leylin much trouble instantaneously gave way, and the old witch and Jaye were forced aside from the pressure.

Pu!

As the old witch flew backwards, mouthfuls of blood spurted out like water gurgling in a spring.

Chapter 185: The Gargamel

“Respected Lord Gargamel... Cough cough... please accept our offerings”

Jaye, who was at the side, suffered quite a deal from the energy waves. However, she was still better off than the old witch and was somewhat able to stand.

Observing these circumstances, she was partly kneeling in a bizarre position, while tossing a severed Magus’ head in front of the black shadow.

“Brass Ring!”

Leylin’s pupils contracted as he recognized whose head it was. It seemed that Brass Ring didn’t die because of the secret plane’s mechanisms after all, but was instead ambushed by the old witch and Jaye.

Right now, Leylin stood to the side with cold sweat forming on his body, not daring to move an inch.

Although the black shadow atop the altar didn’t look his way, he could clearly feel an extremely vicious and unyielding spiritual force completely locking him down.

Leylin had a premonition that if he took a single step forward, he

would be struck by the full power of the Gargamel!

Crunch! Crunch!

Immediately after receiving the head of Brass Ring, whose expression still held traces of disbelief, the black shadow put it into its mouth and started to chew.

An absolutely horrifying grinding noise could be heard reverberating from the top of the skeleton mound.

“Ji Ji!” After the black shadow swallowed the head whole, it gave off a sound of satisfaction. Moreover, a scarlet tongue licked its lips, apparently with a desire for more.

“Ah, a spirit that fulfills the conditions! State your wishes!”

An ancient and cryptic voice sounded directly into Leylin and the others’ consciousness, spoken in a language Leylin had never heard before. Strangely, Leylin could understand the meaning of each word that was being spoken.

“I want...” Jaye slowly opened her mouth.

“Let my daughter Jaye come back to life! Give her a new body filled with life!” The old witch, who had fallen to the side, suddenly grew frantic. As she threw herself in front of the Gargamel’s shadow, “If you can fulfill my desire, I will pay any price necessary!”

It could be a misperception, but after the old witch spoke of those words, Leylin seemed to notice a hint of... ridicule in the Gargamel's gigantic eyes

“I need... I need more offerings...”

The giant shadow licked its lips, “According to the principles of spirit transformation, a male magus cultivating in the Darkness element is a necessary offering!”

“I got it!” Old witch retrieved a couple of crystal balls filled with spiritual powers, and in addition, pointed towards Leylin.

“As for the offering, it's that Magus!”

As the black shadow stated its conditions. Leylin felt his heart sink as he furiously activated his hastening spells.

His silhouette looked like it was cloaked inside a black tornado as it charged down the hill.

However, the speed of the black shadow Gargamel was far beyond Leylin's expectations.

Facing Leylin's escape, the black shadow simply extended a translucent palm and grabbed!

Screech! Whoosh!

The black tornado was torn apart, revealing Leylin's body.

Leylin felt like the air was instantly solidifying, and that it was constantly pressing in from all four sides.

In an instant, a band of silver light descended from the sky and coiled around Leylin's waist.

From this band of light emerged an enormous amount of tyrannical spiritual force. The quality of this spiritual force was higher than anything that Leylin had ever encountered before. Just a tiny bit was enough to completely shatter his elemental essence converted spiritual force.

The spiritual force was a fundamental part of a Magus and was also the primer for casting spells.

With spiritual force having been shattered, Leylin naturally could not cast a single spell.

The silver band of light retracted, and Leylin was forced to follow its movements to ultimately arrive in front of the altar.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

Four black shackle-like tentacles emerged from the altar and

bound Leylin's limbs tightly together.

The present Leylin's body was spread eagle as he was presented to the black shadow Gargamel.

“Spiritual force materialisation! This evil spirit Gargamel must be at least at the level of a rank 2 Magus!”

Leylin's face was deadly pale as his mind raced, trying to gauge the strength of the black shadow.

At the same time, the A.I. Chip was operating at full speed in order to calculate the energy that the Gargamel was emitting, and from there, predict its stats and weaknesses.

Spiritual force materialisation was an advanced technique that only rank 2 Magi were qualified to practice!

Spiritual force lacked shape or substance, and the various colorful spells that Leylin had seen were actually just the appearance of elemental particles that were in the air. As for the spiritual force, it acted as a catalyst and initiated the process of casting spells. However, all of these things could not be observed with the naked eye.

After a Magus reached rank 2, he could directly draw his spiritual force from his sea of consciousness out into the real world, and materialise it into the most basic energy particle. This was something that could be seen by even the most ordinary person!

When dealing with Magi below rank 2, who were unable to materialise their spiritual force, that ability made it basically impossible to lose!

After all, for Magi who could materialise their spiritual force, their condensation of spiritual force far surpassed that of a rank 1 Magus. With the weak spiritual force of a rank 1 Magus, it was impossible to hold out against attacks produced by the spiritual force of a rank 2 Magus, which resulted in the situation where a rank 1 Magus' power was nothing compared to that of a rank 2 Magus.

The silver band of light that the shadowy Gargamel used was a materialisation of spiritual force that could be seen in the real world!

“A rank 2 Magus? To think that the contingency plans that I had the A.I. Chip prepare in case of an emergency would have to be used now...” Leylin's thoughts whirled about as he turned to watch the witch carefully.

“Can you tell me the truth now?” Leylin's voice was muffled as if he had lost all hope. “After all, we're still allies!”

“Other than the agreement on the making of the potion and how we were to divide them, there wasn't any condition that said we couldn't injure one another!”

The old witch was still trembling incessantly as if she was about

to topple to the ground and die any second. At the same time, however, she was extremely zealous, and her cheeks were flushed.

“I’m willing to do anything for Jaye, much less sacrifice an ally like you that has wicked intentions!”

“Jaye! She’s your daughter?” Leylin stared blankly. Immediately he turned his head towards Jaye, the black-cloaked person.

Jaye nodded her head and removed the black gown she wore.

A translucent image of a girl appeared in front of Leylin. The image had the appearance of a very young and pretty woman, and on her pretty face, one could still see some traces of how the old witch looked when she was in her youth.

“Spirit bodies?” Leylin was stunned once more. He thought back to how Jaye had been silent the entire time, and how she even wore a thick pair of gloves. Of course, there should also have been other secret methods that were used, or else Leylin and Brass Ring, who had spent some time with her, would have discovered the abnormalities of Jaye’s body long before.

“My poor daughter permanently lost her physical body after an accident during an experiment. All that I can do is to constantly transfuse spiritual force into her and prolong the amount of time that she can stay in this world...”

The old witch’s eyes were glazed over as if she was reminiscing

the past.

“Even though Jaye is already dead, I have never given up on my wish to bring her back to life! By a stroke of fate, I remembered some materials about the ancient Spirit Slaying Sect that I had obtained when I was young. Their spirit transferring technique is definitely able to resurrect my daughter and help her regain a physical body!”

“So you’ve been collecting spirits and continuously trying to unseal this Gargamel?”

Leylin coldly inquired.

“That’s right!” The old witch frankly admitted to it. “It is also thanks to your potions. Without them, Jaye’s spirit would not have been strengthened enough to allow her to withstand the transfer...”

It seemed that all of the Tears of Mary potions that the old witch had received from Leylin had gone to Jaye.

As a result, Jaye’s spirit was able to increase from that of an ordinary person to the level of an official Magus.

“Also, in order to summon the Gargamel and resurrect Jaye, a few conditions need to be met!” Having planned this for decades and on the verge of seeing it succeed, the old witch was obviously in the mood to say everything that was on her mind.

For some reason, the shadowy Gargamel did not make a move, and just waited as she spoke.

“I need to initiate the process of summoning the Gargamel through the use of an official Magus who meets several stringent requirements, such as those in terms of aptitude and physique. In order to resurrect Jaye, these are the offerings required. Do you know how long it took me to look for you two offerings? Do you have any idea how long I waited for this moment?”

The old witch’s expression became crazed. Without even waiting for Leylin to speak, she thundered, “53 years! To fulfil these conditions, I waited 53 whole years!”

“In these 53 years, my darling Jaye suffered a lot...sob...sob... “

At the climax of her narration, the old witch’s tears flowed down her face, while Jaye stood silently to one side.

“All of my efforts have been rewarded. Now, my beloved daughter, Jaye, will be resurrected!!”

Leylin silently listened on. Now, all was clear to him.

Leylin was not angry about the fact that he and Brass Ring would be offerings.

He'd never thought himself to be treasured by the heavens, where he would somehow be able to profit from unfortunate situations or turn misfortunes into blessings.

Since he could scheme against others, others could obviously do the same.

All he could do was to consider all of his options in advance and make sure that every step went as perfectly as was possible. This was so he would not be schemed against or made use of.

“Honourable Gargamel, based on the rules for replacement, I present to you this Magus as an offering. In return, I want you to help my daughter regain a physical body.”

The old witch was gasping for breath as she placed several bizarre items on the altar while she made her request.

“This replacement is allowed!”

From under the skull mask that the shadow was wearing, it seemed to be looking at Leylin and the others with a faint trace of mockery in its expression.

The old witch who was kneeling on the ground, as well as Jaye, who seemed confused, did not notice this.

“As much as I want to stay behind and watch the show, I'm sorry!”

Leylin grinned as the large arm of the Gargamel approached him.

Chapter 186: Gravity Spell Formation

“A.I. Chip, activate the gravity spell formation with maximum force!”

Leylin violently roared inwardly.

Meanwhile, his muscles swelled and a fine layer of black scales appeared on his body.

His eyes changed to an amber colour and appeared to have a beast-like vertical pupil in them.

Scales of Kemoyin and the Eye of Petrification!

During this life-or-death situation, the current Leylin used both of his innate spells!

Leylin’s vertical pupils focused on the chains and shackles that were binding him instead of the Gargamel.

This Gargamel, at the very least, had the power of a rank 2 Magus and its spiritual force exceeded Leylin’s by several times. Using the Eye of Petrification on it would not be enough to close this difference in strength.

And even if Leylin got closer and used the Eye of Petrification on

him, it would still only cause him an unfortunate consequence; the Gargamel would devour his spirit!

Pa! Pa! Pa!

The chains and shackles that bound him turned gray under the gaze of the Eye of Petrification.

They disintegrated all over the ground as Leylin flexed his arms.

At the same time, a reverse symbol ‘j’ became bright and visible on his clothes.

A strong attraction force acted on Leylin’s body and pulled him away so hard that he was almost flying as he moved backwards.

The speed of this ‘flight’ was 4-5 times more than when he had used a spell to flee.

The old witch and Jaye only saw a black flash; Leylin had already vanished without a trace in front of their eyes.

“No...” The old witch issued a hissing roar.

Jaye wore a complicated expression on her face, as if she had lost all hope, and heaved a despairing sigh.

“The materials for the replacement has disappeared. But the ceremony has already started and must not be interrupted. Start using other materials instead...”

The Gargamel only watched from a distance the spot from where Leylin had vanished but did not chase after him. Instead, he said a few words that caused the expressions on the old witch and Jaye’s face to drastically change.

“No...”

Together with the unceasing spell which was being dispelled, a shriek filled with hopelessness and despair rang out, piercing through the entire mountain of white bones.

.....

Bang!

A huge explosion erupted and the spell formation laid on top of the white ground in the garden shattered.

Meanwhile, a black human shadow was drawn to this place and created a deep indent as it smashed into the ground due to the huge gravitational force.

“Cough Cough...”

At the bottom of a huge pit, Leylin fiercely spat out a mouthful of sand and pebbles. Upon seeing the strange angle his right arm was in, he smiled wryly.

“The A.I. Chip recovered only a portion of the ancient gravity spell formation, and using it so rashly obviously resulted in this situation. If not for my innate spell, I’m likely to have suffered far more than just a broken arm.”

Despite the grimace on his face, he jumped out of this large pit quickly and observed his surroundings. This was the place where he had fought with the vengeful spirit, the Loathsome Evil, and also where he had arranged his spell model.

“This gravity spell formation was truly set up perfectly!”

Leylin sighed regretfully, and immediately commanded, “A.I. Chip, analyse the map and find the most optimal route to exit the secret plane!”

Previously, upon the spirit altar, Leylin had seen something similar to a map of the secret plane.

Due to his cautiousness, he had immediately asked the A.I. Chip to make a record of the map and compare it with the map made from routes he had travelled. As expected, the result was that he obtained a complete map — the entire map of the secret plane!

The gravity spell formation here was an ancient spell that he had

upgraded himself.

He had only seen the original model of this spell in the ancient books at the Four Seasons Garden, and many parts of it were already badly damaged.

Even with the A.I. Chip's help he only had one complete portion, which only held 30 to 40% of the original power of the spell formation.

But this 30 to 40% power was enough to cause Leylin much happiness and was one of his hidden trump cards.

This gravity spell formation model was able to create a powerful gravitational force, which would forcibly pull magic artifacts or lifeforms that had previously been engraved onto a place where the gravity spell formation had been set up.

Due to its utilisation of many ancient techniques the force of attraction was very powerful, and its speed was extremely high! Even a rank 2 Magus would be helpless against it.

If previously Leylin had the assurance of 10% success in fleeing from a rank 2 Magus, then after he had properly set up the gravitational spell, this probability of success could increase to 40% or even more!

[Map imported and the optimal route has been found!]

The A.I. Chip computed quickly and the map of the secret plane was projected clearly in Leylin's field of view. In it, a red line marked the route from Leylin's current position to the oil painting, which was the entrance to the plane.

Jiji! Just then, from the Gargamel's location, a loud, weird noise could be heard. Then a black shadow became larger and larger and finally unfurled itself within the sky.

Crash! It was as if the entire sky in the secret plane had been ripped apart, exposing a pitch-black hole, and many blood red lightning bolts and thunder hacked at this black shadow.

The shadow wore a strange skull mask and struck out at the constantly roaring lightning and thunder.

The repercussions of this fight, caused everything to be turned to dust wherever it landed. And the battlefield slowly expanded, reaching to the location where Leylin was.

“Run!”

Seeing this apocalypse-like scene, Leylin did not think for long, and immediately broke into a run.

On the way, the ground began to split open, and many trestles and stone sculptures fell to the ground. This scene was as if the world was ending.

Leylin ran with lightning-fast speed and his body was constantly covered with the Scales of Kemoyin. At high speed, all that could be seen was a long, black afterimage.

Swish!

Leylin quickly passed through a metal tunnel, and ahead of him was a dead-end. A thick layer of metal had completely sealed this passage.

But Leylin's expression did not vary in the least; flickering constantly, he rapped at a few points at the wall.

Rumble rumble! Along with a loud noise of a machine, The metal in front of Leylin split open with a deafening mechanical noise, exposing a silver passage.

Written in the ancient Byron language was a sign on one side of the tunnel that read: "Tunnel made for emergency exit, specifically for lab employees!"

Leylin's blue eyes flashed and, without hesitation, he rushed through this passage.

The silver passage quickly flashed past Leylin.

Immediately, the A.I. Chip's voice intoned, causing Leylin's footsteps to halt.

[Discovered hidden compartment. It wasn't recorded in the map previously. Do you want to continue through that way or not?]

“Hidden compartment? And the map on the spirit altar did not have a record of it? The level of secrecy of this compartment must be very high.”

Leylin glanced at the passage behind him with concern, sprinted forth, and a small door suddenly appeared on the silver wall.

The room behind the door was very narrow. It was a compartment of a few square meters in area and at its center was a very simple and mysterious ancient spell formation.

This spell model was built entirely using a black stone and on its surface were all kinds of symbols which Leylin could not understand. All around this spell model were tall obelisks.

Leaning on one of the obelisks was a corpse.

This corpse was wearing a black gown that was lushly and delicately embroidered. More importantly was that even after such a long time had passed the clothes still had a bright and beautiful luster.

“This definitely was a very important person!” Seeing this corpse, Leylin inwardly exclaimed.

“A.I. Chip, record the patterns on the spell model” Leylin issued an order then he crouched down next to the corpse, and began fumbling about its clothes.

Some miscellaneous items and a torn diary made of parchment paper fell into Leylin’s hands.

[The spell model’s formation and the runes have already been recorded.]

After hearing the A.I. Chip’s intonation, Leylin immediately left the secret compartment. All of these took place in less than 15 seconds of time.

Leylin tapped on another wall of the secret compartment, then he quickly ran away.

And behind him, with a rumbling noise, the secret compartment door closed and a white light was emitted throughout the entire passage. Nobody could tell he had been in there.

.....

Rays of bright sunlight shone down.

It was already daytime in the small town, but, because of the old witch’s potion, the populace was in a state of deep sleep.

This situation had already been discovered by the surrounding villagers and the rumors spread about very fast.

Of course, due to the fact that there were limitations in communication and reasons of time, the extent to which these rumors were spread was very small and did not attract the interest of even an acolyte.

Now, the small town gained the reputation of being a ghost town.

At the end of the passage, the oil painting emitted a silvery light. Then this light turned brighter and brighter, and finally revealed the entrance of a passageway.

Whoosh!

From this entrance emerged a black shadow in very sorry shape.

Leylin used his left hand to wipe his cold sweat and turned around to see the passage to the secret plane.

“That was way too dangerous! If not for the defense mechanism that the Magi of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect set up for in case the Gargamel lost control, I wouldn’t have been able to get away...”

To say that the Gargamel was very powerful was not a lie; the current Leylin was definitely not its match.

The being formed from the gathering of evil souls were simply insane. They were known for their temperamental nature, and Leylin wanted nothing to do with such terrifying and dangerous entities.

“Latent Fireball!”

After looking at the entrance to the secret plane, a flash of determination passed through his eyes and he threw black fireballs at the entrance, thoroughly destroying it.

Although there were many good things inside this secret plane, but when compared to his own insignificant life, Leylin certainly knew which he would prefer.

And compared with the fact that the Gargamel could come out at any time to finish him off, the other items inside the secret plane at once became dispensable.

Leylin looked at the surroundings and after removing all traces of his having been here, he departed from this place without looking back.

And if the entrance was not destroyed, then the Gargamel could come out from within the secret plane.

Leylin estimated that, with the strange and savage power of the Gargamel, it could immediately find the weak point of the secret

plane and tear it apart and escape!

But by that time, Leylin would be a long distance away. What did this have to do with him?

Furthermore, in the entire Magus world of the south coast, Leylin was not the only Magus around. For instance, the head of the Night Lighthouse that he had met earlier was more than capable of suppressing this Gargamel!

Chapter 187: Emergency Situation

The speed at which Leylin escaped was extremely quick, and after just half a day, the tall, thick walls of the Nightless City were within sight.

At this point, his right hand had already completely healed. The frightening vitality of a Warlock was proving its worth.

Only after entering the Nightless City did Leylin breathe a huge sigh of relief.

The Gargamel was the result of the concentration of evil intentions by the Ancient Spirit Slayer Sect. Although it was unknown why that Gargamel had been sealed there by the Magi of the sect, based on the calculations from the battle with it, Leylin could say that this monster's strength was equivalent to that of a rank 2 Magus!

Although Leylin couldn't hold his own against it, there were a couple rank 2 Magi in the south coast that could. At the very least, the leaders of large scale Magus organisations and powers definitely had at least this level of power.

At that moment, within the Nightless City, the trading centre of the south coast, there were quite a few Magi with this kind of strength.

Leylin was sure that if the Gargamel were to chase after him, the

Nightless City was sure to have the means to stop it!

However, he had another plan in mind.

The old witch was trapped in the secret plane together with that terrifying culmination of evil. From the looks of it, her chances of survival were meagre.

However, it was a fact that she held the position of elder in the dark Magus organisation that Leylin was affiliated with—Thousand Meddling Hands. Her status was obviously higher than that of an average member, and she was also able to contact the hidden rank 2 Magus heading the group!

With her death, there would be loose ends that needed to be tied up.

If possible, Leylin would obviously want to take possession of everything the old witch owned.

In a light Magus organisation, this would naturally be impossible. However, in the case of Thousand Meddling Leaves, as long as he revealed a bit of his might, it would be enough to subdue the ambitious Magi who wished to take over this position.

“Hello? Is this Leylin?”

At this moment, a secret imprint that resembled a four-coloured ring emerged from Leylin’s waist. A man’s voice was transmitted

from it.

“Hello, Lord Decarte!”

Leylin could make out the owner of this imprint. It was the head of the Potioneering team, Decarte! His tone naturally became respectful.

Previously, all of the missions that Decarte needed Leylin to complete had been issued to him by Leylin’s current leader, Martin

“Ugh, the secret imprint seemed to have had some sort of interference, and I couldn’t contact you at all. Did you go somewhere far away?”

Decarte’s questions were transmitted to him from the secret imprint.

“Yes. I’d accepted a friend’s invitation to explore a small ruin...” Leylin’s answer was half true.

“No wonder! Many of these ruins left behind by Magi will automatically block out all forms of communication. In there, a secret imprint is merely a useless decoration...” No matter if Decarte actually believed him or not, the voice from the secret imprint sounded convinced.

“My apologies for making my lord worry about me. Might I ask what you require of me?” Leylin was puzzled as he spoke to the

imprint.

“Yes, there’s something that I need. A few elders and the head have issued orders that Four Seasons Garden has entered the highest state of alert. All Magi will have their vacations cancelled! Upon receiving this message, you must report to the headquarters within 24 hours! All who do not do so will be viewed as traitors, and will be punished by the law enforcers!”

Decarte broke out the earth-shattering news.

“What?”

Leylin was in shock, causing him to take a few steps back.

The Four Seasons Garden wasn’t stupid, and issuing such an order could only imply one thing. Something was going to happen to the entire south coast.

“I’ll be there in time! Can you tell me what has happened?”

Leylin sucked in a few breaths of air and calmed himself down before inquiring.

“The whole situation is a little complicated. You can ask Martin about it when you’re back. There’s only one thing I can tell you—war! A war is approaching...”

“I don’t have any more time left. Just remember to come here as quickly as possible! In war, the weak ones who don’t have organisations to rely on are usually the first to die!”

Pop! With his last word, the secret imprint dispersed into countless bright sparks, drifting through the air around Leylin.

Decarte’s sounded serious, which caused Leylin’s heart to sink.

When compared to these strong organisations, the conflict at the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was but a small matter.

To have caused the Four Seasons Garden’s Potioneering team head to be so flustered, there was only one possibility—that an incoming war was going to rock the Magus World!

Leylin suddenly remembered some information about Magus’ history.

After the ancient times had passed, it was the current period. During this current period, two huge wars had occurred. These two events had affected the Magi, and basically all species in the entire south coast. The Magi suffered massive casualties, and the humans were obviously more affected, with numerous empires annihilated.

These two wars were named the First and Second Great Magus Wars!

Now, it seemed the Third Great Magus War was about to begin!

Leylin's scrunched up his brows and wrinkled his forehead.

For him, it was entirely possible to accumulate information and resources, and with the A.I. Chip, he would be able to constantly break through his bottlenecks and improve further.

As a result, Leylin had hoped to be able to develop in a more peaceful and stable environment until he would reach a bottleneck.

In the previous great wars, acolytes were cannon fodder. Even official Magi fell and died in swarms, resulting in the alternate name of the wars: the Magus World's Death Grinder.

Leylin wasn't sure that he would be lucky enough to escape unscathed!

Wars of this scale affected the entire south coast, and nobody had been able to escape. As long as one was a Magus, he or she would be involved in it.

Unless... If he left the south coast and passed through several extremely dangerous regions, and set off for a new place, he would be safe.

"I shouldn't scare myself. It might just be a conflict between the Four Seasons Garden and another Magus organisation!"

Leylin, who had been standing by the city gates, suddenly smiled gently and walked right inside.

He'd thought it through. No matter what happened, it had absolutely nothing to do with him.

After all, he was a member of Four Seasons Garden's Potioneering team! Unless Caesar's entire hunting team was annihilated, research personnel like him wouldn't need to be on the battlefield.

If this was a war with other Magus organisations, with the Four Seasons Garden's background, it would be impossible to be thoroughly annihilated. If he were to defect now, it would be an extremely foolish decision that would offend the Four Seasons Garden for no reason.

If the Third Great Magus War was to happen, the entire south coast would become a battlefield, and no area would be safe.

Decarte's words were a reminder as well as a warning.

Great wars never began with both sides going all out. It would start with them using small groups and neutral parties to eliminate all other elements, and then they would be able to fight freely, without fear of others taking advantage of the situation.

Wandering Magi and indecisive small organisations were

definitely the first to be used!

Leylin didn't want to lose his backing and live a life where a crisis was always imminent.

As a result, it was necessary for him to return to the Four Seasons Garden.

Leylin was confident that he had hidden his skills well. In the eyes of the Magi in the Four Seasons Garden, Leylin was merely a newly advanced Magus who was talented in Potioneering and training!

If the leaders of Four Seasons Garden were stupid enough to get Leylin to be cannon fodder, then at the most, he would just leave and cut all connections between them.

Leylin was confident he would be able to leave the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters without alerting the rank 2 Magi there.

After thinking this entire matter through, Leylin achieved a calm state of mind. Only then did he have the mood to survey his surroundings.

At this moment, Leylin discovered a difference in the Nightless City!

The Nightless City's large gates had all been opened wide. Giants, which were usually rarely seen, could be seen wearing animal

hides that did not fit them, and holding huge wooden stakes. They were entering the city in twos and threes.

With every step they took, the ground slightly shook.

The number of people in the Nightless City had increased by around 50%, causing a few passages to become congested.

However, whether they were regular humans, acolytes, or even some official Magi, their expressions were dark. In particular, there were a few official Magi who had a deep sense of distrust in their eyes when they saw unfamiliar Magi.

In the first zone of the Nightless City, shops that used to be bustling despite their unorganized placement saw a sharp decrease in price of raw materials. Defensive items, potions, and the like, on the other hand, were experiencing an increase in price. Many shops had already put up signs saying they were sold out.

Though Leylin had expected this, seeing this scene in person definitely had an effect on his mood.

All this was evidence of the scale of the impending war that would affect the entire Magus World. Leylin would definitely not be able to escape this!

Leylin's footsteps seemed to become a bit heavier as he passed through several gates and entered the third zone of the Nightless City.

In the region where the villas were located, the originally lively place was somewhat deserted. There were no signs of the cheerful Magi who used to hang around the various gardens. Several flowers that used to be tended to in the flower terrace were listlessly lowering their heads, with some even showing signs of wilting, which gave off a bleak atmosphere.

“Master!”

Once he returned to his own villa, Damien, the level 3 acolyte who worked as his butler, welcomed him.

“I’m fine! Did anything strange happen in the Nightless City recently? Tell me everything you know!” Leylin immediately asked while he threw his cloak to Damien.

“Yes! Damien was just about to do so!”

There was a worried expression on his face.

“A day before, rumours about the start of a third Magus war started spreading around the Nightless City. At the beginning, nobody took it to heart, but as time passed, the fact that no organisation stood up to refute this claim has Nightless City in a frenzy...”

Chapter 188: Branding Experiment

Damien expressed a slightly apprehensive expression.

“Many Magi simply left. Huge numbers of people are in the streets buying items to increase their powers. It’s as though they are trying to use up all of the magic crystals at their disposal...”

“That strange phenomenon only gradually abated after the public center dispatched people to patrol the streets.....”

“Moreover, your good friend Magus Crew also moved out this afternoon. Before he left, he left a message for you!”

“What message?”

“The night is approaching. Be careful in everything you do!” Damien said something that sounded like a proverb.

“What does that mean?” Leylin frowned. “When did that Crew start to like being a prophetic Magus? The things he says are never clear!”

Leylin pondered for a moment, and finally told Damien, “From the information I’ve gathered, there will probably be a relatively large war that is imminent.....”

Even though he already had some guesses, when Damien heard this information, his body trembled uncontrollably. He was originally caught and became a slave because of a war. Even though he was under a spirit branding, that bitter experience was just like a brand that was deeply engraved in his memories, making it impossible for him to forget.

“That’s right, call Number 1 to 5 over here!”

Leylin casually instructed Damien, who rapidly suppressed his shaking body, and withdrew at an extremely fast pace.

After a few minutes, five armoured Grand Knights with greatswords appeared before Leylin and knelt to perform a perfect Knight’s greeting!

“Master!”

The extremely thick armour didn’t affect their movements in the slightest way, and every movement of those five people carried a killing intent. It could be seen at a glance that they were strong veteran Grand Knights that had experienced countless battles.

“You may rise!” Leylin commented softly as he looked at those five people.

They were naturally the five Grand Knight slaves that he had purchased at the slave market in addition to Damien.

With the spirit branding, Leylin could order these five Grand Knights to die and they would obey without any hesitation.

They originally had names, but for convenience's sake, Leylin gave all of them new names with numbers, starting from 1 to 5.

Leylin had put in considerable amounts of effort on the five Grand Knights. He constantly fixed their conditions during the past year. He didn't even mind spending a lot of his resources to brew precious potions for them to consume.

Currently, the five experimental bodies' were unconsciously giving off energy waves filled with life force. They were already beyond the Grand Knight's rank and were beginning to advance to a higher realm.

“What are the results of the secret techniques that I taught you previously?”

Leylin asked.

“Master! After using the secret techniques along with the potions from before, Number 2, 3 and I felt life force start to flow through us, which was something that had not happened for a long time. Our vitality also became increasingly stronger.”

The big man on the far left stepped out of the line and said, “But when Number 4 and 5 used the secret techniques, the brand on their bodies shook and gave off scorching hot energies that

interrupted their training.....”

This Grand Knight slave, known as Number 1, gave an extremely detailed report.

In the past year, Leylin had been constantly modifying the brands of the five through the modifications made by the A.I. Chip. This had allowed him to gain a lot of fruitful experiment results.

The 'secret techniques' that were previously taught to those five Grand Knights were just improvised data from the information about Branded Swordsman.

“Is that so?” Leylin’s gaze became stern. “Remove your clothes!”

The five slaves removed their body armour without any thoughts after hearing their master’s order.

Crash! Metal armour made a racket as they hit the ground. The Grand Knights had removed the heavy armour in just a couple of seconds, revealing completely unclothed bodies.

Moreover, Number 4 and 5 were female Grand Knights, but they weren’t at all embarrassed as they stood before Leylin with their well-developed bodies and private parts completely exposed.

Those five had the strength of Grand Knights. Their bodyline was supple, but was well developed. Every inch of their flesh hid

an astonishing explosive power.

Their bodies were akin to perfectly sculpted statues.

However, there were elements that offset their aesthetic appearance from being perfect.

Leylin didn't care about the two Grand Knight beauties; his gaze was completely focused on the interweaving brand on their body.

Leylin scrutinised their bodies.

He noticed that the bodies of his Grand Knight subordinates were covered with deep, black brands.. Near these brands were some twisting scars. It seemed as if a branding iron was the source of the brands and scars.

With close observation, the brands looked like a centipede climbing. while their chest and lower abdomen regions formed an extremely peculiar rune.

Some of the brands seemed to be broken and were unable to link together.

“A.I. Chip! Scan those brands and compare the current conditions of these Grand Knights to the previous observations in a new file!” Leylin thought.

As he said this, a blue light shone in his eyes and swept horizontally across those slaves.

[Beep! Mission established! Commencing the scanning!] The A.I. Chip followed the tasks that Leylin ordered.

Rows of numbers and three 3-D images appeared before Leylin and were constantly being updated.

“En! It seemed that the training method that I created isn’t bad. These Knights’ physical qualities have had drastic improvements and are also able to train their life force. Their previous stagnant powers are starting to rapidly improve!”

Leylin was extremely satisfied after looking at the results of the three male Grand Knights.

“The training method of the Branded Swordsman conflicts with the brands on their bodies?”

Leylin carefully looked through the A.I. Chip’s results while constantly walking around the slaves in order to attentively observe the position of the brands.

“Where is the source of the previous problem? Is it here?”

Leylin placed his hands below the lower abdomen of Number 4 without ascribing and thoughts to what he was doing. After having placed his hand there, he felt a warm sensation and could feel that

underneath the smooth and supple skin, there were muscles that were slightly twitching now.

“Yes...Yes, that’s the place, Master!” said Number 4 with a slightly shaky voice. This female Grand Knight had a good appearance and an exceptionally curved, bountiful body

“If that’s the case!” Leylin caressed his lower jaw.

“A.I. Chip! Amend the parameters for the two female knights to the p-grade content and change the index to the third grade before testing again!”

This kind of calculation was an easy task for the A.I. Chip. After a short moment, the A.I. Chip had already concluded its calculation and reported it to Leylin.

[Beep! According to the calculation, the brandings of the swordsman are different for males and females. The markings must follow a carved inscription!]

After looking at the A.I. Chip’s conclusion, Leylin’s expression did not change since he had expected such a result.

“So it really was the case! Kroft had gotten hold of a part of the Branded Swordsman information, but there is an extreme lack of information concerning the brandings. The runes inscribed on males had been deduced by the A.I. Chip. Moreover, those marks aren’t suitable for females, which resulted in the two female

Knights being unable to train!”

“It seems that I must purchase a large quantity of male Grand Knight slaves to try to create a Branded Swordsman!”

Leylin planned to himself.

To him, using males or females didn’t have any differences. He just needed to head to different sections of the slave Market for them.

However, regarding the most crucial rune inscriptions for the Branded Swordsman, he could only amend the model to suit males. While it was not impossible to create something out of nothing for a female version of the model, it would take a lot of time. Leylin didn’t want to spend the A.I. Chip’s precious calculation skills on this matter.

“Since this is the case, there’s only one troublesome problem in manufacturing Branded Swordsman, which is the problem in combining the markings’ powers.”

Leylin rubbed his lower jaw with flames burning in his eyes.

The ancient Branded Swordsman were similar to the bloodline Warlocks and elemental bards, which were among the stronger professions of the sub branch of the magi. Their specialties were their physical defence and offensive powers, which were regarded as their enemies’ nightmares.

Moreover, the combination of the Branded Swordsman and magicians was an eternal nightmare for many worlds.

If the Branded Swordsman could perform crowd control, then the Magi behind them would have the time to prepare the formidable power of magic in order to change a given situation.

Moreover, the power of an official Branded Swordsman was equivalent to that of at least a rank 1 Magus!

Leylin just needed to form an army with Branded Swordsmen. The quantity didn't need to be large; 20 of them would be sufficient. With such forces, Leylin would no longer have an opponent at the rank 1 Magus level and he was also confident enough to be able to fight against a rank 2 Magus!

“However, regarding the problem of the powers, the runes of the Branded Swordsman is the pivotal point. Even if it was the A.I. Chip, it could not guarantee perfection without countless experiments and accumulation of data. Moreover, there's also a problem in controlling the Branded Swordsmen after they evolve to a higher realm...”

Leylin lowered his head as he muttered to himself irresolutely.

He was only a rank 1 Magus now, so he could at most control level 3 acolytes and Grand Knights.

However, in a similar fashion as the Magi and Warlocks, the ancient Branded Swordsmen could break through the ordinary realm to reach an extraordinary one.

This power wasn't something that Leylin could currently control by using the spirit brand.

Thus, a safer and more effective controlling method had to be researched and implemented on those Branded Swordsman!

Only with this method could the loyalty of his soldiers be guaranteed!

Chapter 189: The Great Magus War

In the dimly lit basement.

A faint red ball of light floated in midair, constantly emitting blood red rays of light, which caused the lighting of the basement to be slightly gloomy, and gave off a horrifying atmosphere.

The previous Grand Knight, Number 1, was lying flat on the enormous white metal experimental table.

His eyes were tightly closed, and his eyelids were constantly moving, as though he was being tortured in his dreams.

Moreover, the black brands on his body seemed to be alive, constantly lengthening and shortening as it wiggled. Moreover, it slowly protruded from his skin, giving off dark red rays of light as he breathed.

“The ancient Branded Swordsman used the magic runes and arrays crafted onto their bodies to enable them to store the world’s natural energy particles into their body. Those particles could also be completely released during critical moments, turning into a terrifying spell! Moreover, the Branded Swordsman’s physical abilities were far beyond the limits of ordinary people, reaching an unfathomable stage because a large amount of energy particles constantly reformed their bodies!”

Currently, it could be said that Leylin was the top person in the

south coast regarding the knowledge of the Branded Swordsman.

With a white scalpel and tweezers in his hands, Leylin finally looked at Number 1, who was still unconscious.

“Even though I’m slightly eager to gain instant benefits, I can’t consider it any further!”

Leylin sighed as he said that. He still needed to get numerous results from the experiments conducted on the five Grand Knights using the A.I. Chip in order to gain accurate parameters before he could inscribe the final energy pathways.

However, time was pressing.

The news concerning the war’s imminence had arrived so suddenly that it messed up most of Leylin’s original plans.

Initially, Leylin was certain that he would make the second transition in his bloodline by the time the Branded Swordsman’s experiment succeeded. At that moment, with his increase in power, it wouldn’t be impossible for him to battle against a rank 2 Magus.

A rank 2 Magus was at the level of the principal of the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, who possessed great magical powers.

If he could calmly wait and silently accumulate power, Leylin could quickly reach the peak domain that the majority of rank 1

Magi couldn't reach in their entire lifetime.

However, everything was in ruins due to the dreadful news of the war.

At this moment, all Leylin could do was quicken his research in hopes that by the time the war came, he could produce Branded Swordsmen. He didn't expect them to have the full might of the ancient Branded Swordsman but possess at least 50-60% of their original power, which would be sufficient to ensure his life during the chaos of the war.

Leylin took a deep breath after he sorted through his thoughts.

At that instant, he completely calmed down, dispelling all distracting thoughts from his mind.

An indifferent light flashed past his eyes as Leylin carved at Number 1's chest with the assistance of the A.I. chip.

.....

“Roar!” An enormous Venom Wyvern, accompanied by a distinct loud cry, dove down from the sky. It abruptly spread its wings when it was a couple of meters above the ground.

Whoosh! Enormous green wings covered the sky, casting a large shadow on the ground.

After spreading its wings, the enormous Venom Wyvern's speed of descent drastically decreased, entering a gliding state. After gliding for a couple of meters in the air, it steadily landed on the Four Seasons Garden's general headquarters' landing pad.

Bang! The enormous bestial claws collided with the platform. When those sharp claws contacted the floor with such a large amount of momentum, it left several meter-deep markings.

Swish! A Magus who was wearing a white robe embroidered with plants directly jumped off the back of the Venom Wyvern.

“Lord Leylin!”

The surrounding Four Season Garden acolytes hastily went forth to bow to him.

There were two other armoured men that also jumped off from the Venom Wyvern's back after Leylin disembarked. There were enormous greatswords the size of a door attached on their backs.

“These two are my followers. According to the school's rules, I've the rights to bring two servants to live with me! Register them for me!”

Leylin told one of the acolytes, “You also to feed Hawke, and increase the amount of red bread pigs by two heads. It recently entered a state of binge eating prior to maturity, so it requires a lot

of food.....”

“Your wish is our command, lord!” That acolyte deeply bowed as he commanded the rest of the subordinates behind him to start washing and cleaning the Venom Wyvern

The acolyte seemed to have rapidly recorded something down. After a short while, he passed two metal tablets to Number 2 and 3, who were behind Leylin.

The two tablets were completely black, and on the surface, there was a scarlet rune marking. The marking consisted of an inverted triangle within a circle, with a coiled black snake in the centre.

This was Leylin’s secret imprint.

“This will be your access pass. Take good care of it, as the replacement procedure is extremely troublesome! Moreover, there are some restricted areas that you’re forbidden from entering, as we are currently in a state of emergency. If you do, you’ll be caught by the guards as a spy!”

That acolyte’s expression was very stern, which made Leylin apprehensive.

“That’s acceptable!” Leylin nodded before leaving this place along with Number 2 and Number 3.

“Is the situation already that severe?” Seeing the Magi rushing

around on the way, combined with the warning from that acolyte, Leylin's heart was slightly heavy.

Leylin, who had gotten a lot of information from the previous experiment, rushed to reach the general headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden the next day.

After all, he didn't want to get into a conflict with the Four Seasons Garden.

While he was still conducting experiments regarding the Branded Swordsman, he had brought Number 2 and Number 3 with him to make some adjustments to them using the result from experiments conducted on Number 1. Currently, Leylin had a higher understanding in his research on the Branded Swordsman!

Under the calculations from the A.I Chip, Number 2 and Number 3 would definitely become good assistants for Leylin after they became Branded Swordsmen.

Leylin had made great progress regarding the problem in controlling them.

He used the white termite as the main ingredient to make modifications to the two Grand Knights and used potions to increase the degree to which the brand was carved into their spirits.

He should be able to control their consciousness to make them

completely enslaved, under those two control measures.

As for the Grand Knights Number 4 and Number 5, they were completely crippled, as the branded runes on their bodies were not compatible with them. The branding of runes wasn't like drawing, where you could just erase your mistakes. Runes would be forever carved onto the body, and would also reside deep inside the spirit, forming a connection. This was the only way that the Branded Swordsmen could activate the natural energy particles!

Since it was Leylin's first time operating, and he was lacking in experience and information, he had already carved the wrong runes onto the previous two female Grand Knights.

Currently, there wasn't a way for Leylin to erase those runes, so they would forever lose their chances in improving and, would stay at the rank of Grand Knight for the rest of their lives.

Leylin would naturally not bring those two burdens with him. He had instructed Damien and the two female Grand Knights to defend his villa in the Nightless City as a future supply base.

Truthfully, Leylin was still in the darkness regarding the information of the war.

He knew that war was imminent, but didn't know why it was occurring. Who were the opposing forces? Everything was shrouded from him.

However seeing how the Four Season Garden was acting as though it was going to meet a formidable enemy in combat, he could guess that the enemy, this time, wasn't a simple one.

Information gathering was one of the reasons why Leylin decided to come to the general headquarters of the Four Seasons Garden.

After arranging for the two Grand Knights to stay at the residential area of the Four Seasons Garden, Leylin briskly walked to the main lounge of the Potioneering team.

It was rare for the two mischievous stone statues to not be creating trouble, so Leylin passed through them quickly.

Creak!

When the door opened, the lounge was still as flourishing and vast as before. A long, white birch table and chairs were orderly arranged. There was a white tablecloth on the table, on the side of which delicate flowers had been stitched.

Different teams in the Potioneering team sat at their respective positions, and constantly chattered among themselves.

The only difference, this time, was that the table wasn't filled with food, but was instead occupied by various documents and crystal balls that were being perused for information.

The master's position in the lounge wasn't filled. It seemed that

Decarte must have been busy, and couldn't come here for the time being.

Leylin surveyed the area, and found the where Martin's team was.

When he met Martin for the first time, that old fellow was positioned extremely far from the host's position. However, now that Leylin had joined and completed some missions, that old man's position had moved quite a bit forward. This was something that Martin had constantly bragged about to everyone.

However, even though he was sitting here, the excitement of being in this seat couldn't cover the worry expressed on Martin's face.

After seeing Leylin, Martin's wrinkle covered face displayed a smile. "Leylin! Over here!"

He pointed to the seat beside him.

Leylin smiled, and after greeting the few Magi that he knew, he walked over to sit beside Martin.

"I'm really glad that you could make it! You should know that due to this dreadful war, our tasks have become much more arduous....."

Since they were extremely close to each other, Martin started to

express his complaints to Leylin.

“Sorry! I’ll definitely work hard in the Potioneering aspect, so can you tell me the details regarding the war? I was previously exploring before I received the Lord leader’s secret imprint, so I’m currently still at a loss as to what is happening!”

Leylin’s face showed a textbook example of confusion.

“Oh! Look at my manners!” Martin patted his large forehead.

“Which part shall I start talking from?”

Martin stroked his beard and expressed a pondering expression.

“To be honest, the source of this battle is related to the previous two Magus wars.....”

Martin commented slowly, his expression becoming serious.

Chapter 190: Eternal River Secret Plane

“Leylin, did you know how the two Great Magus Wars began?”

Martin suddenly asked.

“It seemed to be because of the differences in values between light and dark Magi, as well as some anticipated benefits.” Leylin combined the factors he had read about in books and added his personal take on it.

“Benefits! Everything was for the sake of benefits!”

Martin waved his hand, his expression increasingly agitated.

“Saying that there was a difference in opinion is just a superficial reason, but when it comes down to it, it was all for benefits! When I find out who said this, I’ll copy it down and engrave it in my room!”

Martin quickly proceeded, “In reality, no matter if they were light or dark Magi, they were on the path of pursuing the truth! As long as they were not obstructed, no matter which areas the light Magi occupied, or what massacres the dark Magi were responsible for, the Magi couldn’t care less.”

“The real reason for the two Great Magus Wars was to obtain resources! The meagre resources in the south coast were not

enough for the many of the Magi here...”

Leylin listened quietly as Martin explained the truth behind the Great Magus Wars.

At this moment, a cold smile emerged on his face.

“The so-called Great Magus Wars were actually just for the sake of obtaining more materials, which were not even abundant in the first place. It was a battle started by the highest tier of Magi on both the light and dark Magi’s ends, and was a way to ‘clean up’ the Magus World. After the war, there were massive casualties on both the light and dark Magi’s sides, and the remaining resources were enough for the Magi who had survived to advance. This is how the generations of families came to be on the south coast.”

As Martin was narrating, Leylin saw a rare look of heartache on his face.

From the looks of it, Martin did not approve of these methods and reasoning, and it was highly likely that he was somehow directly affected by the wars.

Leylin immediately thought back to his previous world.

In his previous life, the fall of any empire was said to be caused by corruption and an incompetent monarch, amongst many other things.

The way Leylin saw it, the real reason for their fall was due to benefits and resources!

In ancient times, the land was the base of life. As time passed, the population rapidly grew, and since there wasn't family planning, people kept on having babies and used them for manual labour. That was the norm!

With an increase in population, but with the same amount of land available, not everyone was able to own land to support themselves. For this reason, the entire empire naturally declined.

Of course, during this process, high officials and landowners had their lands taken over, which hastened this decline.

.....

After that, the confusion and deaths caused by the war caused the population to be diminished by about 60 to 70%, and the land and territory were left open for the remaining survivors to use. With this foundation, a new leader could govern well for a century or two and then decline. The cycle would continue...

Leylin believed that the south coast's Magus World was in such a situation.

Even with various measures, the number of Magi was still on the rise, and the south coast's rate of production of materials was hardly enough to support the rate at which Magi advanced in

strength.

Many had to see their dreams crushed due to the lack of resources available.

This bitterness and hatred were passed down from generation to generation, resulting in a state where the ruling Magi began to feel afraid!

Hence, a few of the top guilds in the south coast were unafraid of the losses that might be incurred, and initiated wars, disposing of less powerful Magi organisations.

In those wars, winning was useless! Surviving was the best form of victory!

Once he thought that through, Leylin sucked in a breath of cold air.

Compared to the huge empires in his previous life that could not forge ahead any longer, the south coast Leylin was in was just a small part of the Magus World. It could almost be said to be a rural country area.

Even so, those wielding power in the south coast would rather constantly exhaust their own power by raiding to reduce the risks and resentment of their people, than expand their territory. There was only one reason for this!

Just as how it had happened with the Great Magus Wars, the desire to expand would often result in the opposite reaction, where gains did not make up for the losses. No leader was willing to lose their Magus underlings.

“What sort of dangers lie beyond the south coast?”

Leylin sighed inwardly. He had intentions on travelling all around the Magus World and climbing up to bigger heights. However, from this situation, it seemed rather impossible to even leave the south coast.

“However, this does explain why the south coast has always been so sealed off. Rarely are there Magi that stop over, with the only exception being the great Magus Serholm!”

Leylin’s eyes flashed as he seemed to come to a realisation.

“So does that mean that this impending war is also meant to lessen the population of official Magi?”

At this point, Martin and Leylin had both lowered their voices and transmitted their thoughts. Leylin had also taken the liberty of setting up a few spell formations that would isolate sound waves.

“That’s not it!” Martin slapped his head.

“I just had a lot of feelings regarding the previous Great Magus Wars!”

Old Martin behaved as though he was an old man, and Leylin had the urge to bash him up.

“Hahaha...” Seeing Leylin’s reaction, he laughed in a carefree manner.

“I apologise. I have this problem where in critical moments, I usually like to make jokes to ease my nerves.” Martin gave a tiny grin as an apology, but all Leylin saw was a despicable old man.

“Alright, let’s get back to the topic. The reason for this war is a dispute over benefits!”

Old Martin’s expression became milder, but Leylin still listened intently.

“About two days ago, a group of Magi who were out exploring in the Eternal River Plains found a Magus’ secret plane!”

Martin told Leylin some information.

This group had been searching for some ruins and had accidentally activated the secret plane, resulting in the leakage of this news, which could set off wars. This wasn’t anything new on the south coast.

However, to be able to elicit such a huge response from Old

Martin, even making him think that the Third Magus War was arriving, this secret plane must be very unique.

“A secret plane? Is it a resource type plane? How big is it?” Leylin got right to the key points.

“I don’t know! From the information provided by Magi who had gone in, it’s about ten million mu! The density of elemental particles in there is of the highest quality, A!”

Listening to Martin’s statement, Leylin could not help but gasp in admiration.

Even a large-scale light Magi organisation like the Four Seasons Garden only had a secret plane the size of a little more than a million mu. Just from the site of exploration, the secret plane was already much bigger than what the Four Seasons Garden possessed.

Such a huge benefit was enough for the peace-loving light Magi, who were usually buried in research, to covet and be willing to kill to obtain the secret plane.

“Worst of all, such a huge secret plane has a large number of entrances. It seems that after the exploration group activated one of them, the other entrances were also automatically opened. Based on the news I’ve gathered, there are at least 7 other entrances.”

Old Martin was acting mysteriously about this.

Leylin just gave a huge sigh. “The Eternal River Plains are just at the border between the dark and light Magi’s territories. The undulations from the entrances to such a large scale secret plane will definitely be detected by official Magi, even if it were a thousand li away.”

He finally knew the reason for the wars. Even though it wasn’t the worst situation, it wasn’t all that good either.

“Exactly! Some dark and light Magus organisations got there first, and upon seeing the secret plane, started killing each other from their desire to gain possession of it. In the end, nobody received any benefits, and they later passed on the information they had learned to the organisations behind them! This information spreading from layer to layer resulted in a civil war between the various Magi.”

“In the end, the dark Magi managed to take control of three entrances, while the light Magi took control of the other four. In the huge secret plane, a bloodthirsty battle to steal away various precious resources and territories ensued. The war this time will be inside the plane, and Magi from all over will fight within. Of course, the most important part will be to gain possession of the territory within...”

Leylin heaved a sigh of relief.

Compared to the two other wars that affected the entire south

coast, this was going to affect the Magus World the least. The number of dead humans would be minimal, and for Magi like him, as long as he did not choose to enter the secret plane, he would naturally be safe.

At most, there would be an increase in tasks related to Potioneering.

Of course, nearing the end of the war, there was sure to be a large number of casualties within the organisations, and Leylin might even have to be sent to the frontlines.

However, if that truly were to happen, Leylin would immediately choose to escape, and obviously wouldn't be forced into the fight.

Ding Just as Leylin was about to enquire more from Martin, a clear sound resounded within the hall.

Despite there being no wind, the multi-coloured fabrics in the hall rustled, and rays of rainbow coloured lights shone within the room.

A distinct sound resonated across the hall.

“The team leader is here! Get up and greet him!”

Martin pulled Leylin along.

Leylin rolled his eyes and stood unwillingly.

As the team leader of Four Seasons Garden's Potioneering team, Decarte's power was unquestionable. He was already at the peak of rank 1, and was ready to break through to rank 2 at any moment.

He also had many achievements in Potioneering and was said to be a great master in the subject.

However, not only was this man old fashioned, he was also crazy for anything lavish that could show off his status.

As a result, this person who liked to have dinner with his underlings, have conversations and issue missions in the stately, formal hall, could not tolerate the slightest bit of rudeness towards him.

A number of Magi had been punished for this reason.

Chapter 191: Issuing Missions

Below the stage, numerous Magi bowed.

On the podium, red flames blazed.

A Magus in white robes and a green headband leaped up from the flames energetically, looking like a flame sprite.

“My lord!” Leylin and the other Magi bowed together.

“Hmph!” Decarte nodded in an aloof manner and swept his long cloak before taking a seat at his assigned place.

“Everyone!” Decarte’s voice was very gentle, though he had a weird accent. Having stored a large amount of data, Leylin knew that this was an accent that Magi nobility used in the ancient times. Other than showing off one’s status, there was nothing special about it. Only the most traditional families practised this way of speech now.

“I believe those in charge of you have already spoken to you. If not, you can ask them about it. I have only one thing to say here!”

“Four Seasons Garden will take over one of the entrances to the Eternal River secret plane on behalf of the light Magi. The battle and hunting teams have already been brought into the plane in batches to vie over the resources within against the dark Magi. Our

Potioneering team may not be directly involved in killing the dark Magi, but we have the role of brewing potions and definitely can't hinder the other teams!"

At this point, Decarte's eyes shone as he scanned the area.

All Magi present trembled with fear.

"Is this the power of a Magus at the peak of rank 1?"

Though Leylin could withstand such might, he knew he definitely wasn't Decarte's match yet.

He looked at his stats.

[Leylin Farlier. Rank 1 Warlock, Bloodline: Giant Kemoyin Serpent. Strength: 7.1, Agility: 6.7, Vitality: 8.5, Spiritual Force: 58.9, Magic Power: 58 (Magic Power is in synchronisation with Spiritual Force). Elemental essence conversion: 70%. Status: Healthy]

As a Magus on the verge of breaking through to rank 2, Decarte's spiritual force had definitely gone past 70 and might even be near 80. His elemental essence conversion was sure to have reached a high percentage and was much more than 80%, which was the requirement to break through.

Leylin suspected that Lord Decarte could have advanced a long time ago but had held himself back in order to increase his

elemental essence conversion as much as possible before trying to break through!

Leylin knew that he had a large number of tricks up his sleeves, but the most he could do was catch Decarte unprepared. It was certain that the experienced Decarte could beat him up thoroughly.

“Alright, now I’ll issue the missions. Callum, your research on the Tree Secretion Potion is temporarily on hold. From hereon, spend all your time on brewing the Rotting Bee Swarm potion!”

Decarte began to issue the missions.

A Magus with a gold helmet that covered his face stood and greeted him.

Leylin knew of Callum. He was said to be the number one in the Potioneering team, and the team he led was very capable. They had managed to complete a series of difficult missions, and his own Potioneering abilities were awe-inspiring. Based on Leylin’s calculations, without the use of his trump card, the A.I. Chip, he might not even match up to Callum.

Leylin had heard a bit about the Tree Secretion Potion that Callum’s team was in charge of. The formula had already been mostly figured out, and there was one more step till the potion could show its real effects.

However, because of the war, this experiment had to be postponed.

“Good. I’ll compensate your losses a while later!” Seeing Callum so cooperative, Decarte’s expression brightened.

“Next up is...”

Decarte changed all of the teams’ existing missions.

Their previous missions had to do with research and fortification, but these were all abandoned in favour of refining potions that had immense killing power.

Martin’s team, which Leylin was in, received a mission to brew the Heart of Lava.

This Heart of Lava Potion was a type of offensive potion that had a large area of effect.

Though its might was a little weak at around 20 degrees, it had a wide range and was a necessary item in large-scale wars.

Besides Martin’s team, other Potioneering groups also received this mission.

This potion was not easy to brew, but Decarte cared little for the grimaces on his subordinates’ faces and allocated a fixed number

for each team to make. He also mentioned that if the monthly quota was not met, not only would their benefits and allocations be decreased, they might also be deprived of some of their current authority.

Martin's expression was bitter, and Leylin's heart lurched when Martin looked at him with hope.

Decarte's attitude seemed to imply that Four Seasons Garden did not have the upper hand in the fight for territories within Eternal River secret plane. Hence, they needed a large number of these offensive potions.

If that was the case, it was a definite possibility that people who were usually working at the back, like alchemists and potion masters, would be sent to the frontlines to increase Four Seasons Garden's strength.

With such high odds of this happening, Leylin needed to make some preparations for himself.

After all, he wasn't so stupid as to give his life for Four Seasons Garden.

“Leylin, we're counting on you!”

Martin had a look of fervent hope as he patted Leylin on the back. His teammates had the same expression.

“Alright! However, this mission is extremely important and I can’t guarantee anything...”

Leylin forced a smile.

Time passed quickly, especially while one was busy brewing potions.

Usually, Leylin obviously would not reveal his true abilities in making potions.

While brewing them, he purposely failed a few times in order to hide his ridiculously high rate of success.

However, there was an upside to this whole situation. As Potioneering was a job that demanded one to be meticulous, the environments Potion Masters were in had to be suitable. Hence, they often worked alone.

Leylin also had a private laboratory of his own, and while he was brewing potions, even his own team members did not dare interrupt him.

This gave him the opportunity to do as he pleased.

Firstly, Leylin used a frighteningly short amount of time to brew enough potions to fill the quota. The rest of the time was used on researching the Branded Swordsman, the information he had obtained from the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane, and

other subjects of interest.

Within Leylin's private laboratory.

Burettes, beakers, and other laboratory containers holding colourful liquids were scattered atop the pure white experimenting table. Some of these liquids were solvents that effervesced.

Beside the table, Leylin had his eyes tightly closed, his facial muscles twitching.

At the same time, rings of energy and spiritual force rippled and were constantly being compressed. The atmosphere began to undulate with the tiniest ripples as if it were also being compressed.

The large spiritual force that Leylin possessed was constantly lowering along with the fluctuations, and there even came a point where his spiritual force was undetectable.

A good while later, Leylin opened his eyes.

Currently, his eyes were clear and pure. The layer of darkness from before was nowhere to be seen.

The energy waves he usually gave off had vanished and he seemed to be a regular human. The only identifiable aspect was the deep and immeasurable dark shadow that flashed in his eyes occasionally.

“The spiritual force compression method I obtained from the old witch is surprisingly effective!”

Leylin used the A.I. Chip to scan himself, but even the A.I. Chip could only give a few vague numbers and was unable to effectively analyse the state of Leylin’s body.

Leylin prevented the A.I. Chip from using all its efforts on calculating data, and he had not authorized the usage of an atomic microscope either. However, just this kind of result was enough to make him happy.

From the A.I. Chip’s calculations, this spiritual force compression method matched up the spiritual force energy waves from his body and then compressed them. This would then adjust the spiritual force energy waves and hide his true strength.

Just the first half of the information that the old witch had provided was enough to conceal his strength from other rank 1 Magi.

With the second half he obtained from the old witch during his time in the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect’s secret plane, this effect was multiplied.

The current Leylin was certain that even rank 2 Magi would be unable to detect the concealment of his strength.

Having this ability right before the impending war made it even more precious!

“This method can be used as one of my hiding skills. When coupled with Shadow Stealth, the effects seem to be even better...”

The A.I. Chip began to calculate fervently while Leylin was deep in thought.

After about half an hour, Leylin got up and rang the golden handbell on the experimentation table.

Ding-a-ling! Ding-a-ling!

The crisp sound of a bell resounded.

Creak!

Moments later, a secret door opened, and two Grand Knights dressed in armour walked in.

“Number 2! Number 3! How are you feeling now?”

Leylin surveyed the two who had grown taller and had a change in their physique. Anticipation flashed in his eyes.

“There’s some pain from swelling as if something is inside

drilling holes in my body...”

“Master! I feel the same as Number 2. Also, my body alternates between being cold and warm, and there are sudden surges in strength. I would break whatever I was holding unintentionally when that happened...” Number 3 knelt on one leg as he reported.

“Is that so? Lie on the experimentation table and let me see!”

Leylin commanded.

Number 3 took off all his armour and quickly laid on the ice-cold table.

At the moment, the brand on his body was becoming increasingly clear. What was most obvious was the few strange looking brands that were broken, which had been kept in place with red devices

“I’m unable to replicate the methods of recreating the Ancient Branded Swordsman now, so I can only settle for second best. As long as I forcibly link the brand and let Grand Knights temporarily use this power, it still works!”

Leylin thought to himself.

To fully replicate the methods in creating the powerful Branded Swordsman, a large amount of time was needed.

The current Leylin had to make do and substitute it with other means.

Chapter 192: The Library's Hidden Room

In this pre-war period the entire Magus World on the south coast was in a chaotic situation.

Though Leylin had always stayed within the Four Seasons Garden's headquarters, he had not completely broken off all contact with the outside world.

Every day, he could obtain information about the south coast from his butler Damien, who was still in Nightless City, as well as from other channels.

The appearance of the Eternal River Plains' secret plane had galvanized the south coast!

All Magi, whether it be the organisations, wandering Magi, or even fugitives, were all rushing towards the Eternal River Plains.

The Eternal River Plains' secret plane was said to be the largest plane found on the south coast to date.

It had an area of as much as ten million mu and even exceeded the total area of all resource-based secret planes that had previously been found.

Many Magi wanted to reap some benefits from this magnificent discovery.

For this kind of secret plane, just a small part of it was enough to cover several decades of expenses for the average Magus! Magi organisations that could set up such a plane were sure to be outstanding, even in ancient times.

Magi who could obtain an inheritance of this level could definitely break through their bottleneck and allow them to have a chance at advancing to rank 3 or become a rank 4 Morning Star Magus!

Such a huge temptation not only made the idle Magi crazy with desire, even older Magi who had retired a long time ago had decided to act and were rushing towards the Eternal River Plains.

Due to their great numbers, the Magi rushing for the secret plane eventually had conflicts with the large Magi organisations guarding the entrances.

Dramatic scenes—chaos, murders, alliances, and betrayals—were incessantly acted out on the stage that was the Eternal River Plains.

Many small Magi organisations and individual Magi even made an alliance to contend against the large dark and light Magi groups.

In such a disorderly situation, Leylin needed to raise his strength to protect himself as quickly as possible.

Although the Branded Swordsman created in such a short amount of time were only usable once and might be of inferior strength, that was enough for Leylin.

During critical moments he could only rely on himself. As for the other organisations and powers... hehe.

The current situation in Four Seasons Garden wasn't very good.

The huge influx of Magi into the Eternal River Plains had resulted in a weakening of the security in the area. Four Seasons Garden not only had to deal with attacks from within the secret plane but also had to send out some Magi to maintain order at the entrance. Their numbers were simply not enough.

A prominent example was the obvious decrease of Magi in Four Seasons Garden. The rank 2 Magi leaders could rarely be seen.

It was clear that Four Seasons Garden's defense abilities were gradually becoming weaker.

Leylin even had the thought of giving this information to Thousand Meddling Hands and gain some benefits from their weakness.

However, this plan was quickly rejected by Leylin.

Other than the restrictions he had from the previous contract witnessed by the Trial's Eye, the rank 2 Magus guarding the secret

plane was still around. Taking over this type of secret plane required at least the rank 2 dark Magus that was controlling Thousand Meddling Hands to act.

Leylin was merely a normal member who had, at most, gained some notoriety. He was not yet qualified to be in direct contact with such a strong being.

Though the old witch had promised Leylin her position as an elder, she was trapped within the secret plane. This promise thus became invalid.

Though Leylin found it a pity, he wasn't particularly regretful.

In that situation, it was already a miracle that he could escape. Considering the circumstances, it was not practical to think about anything else.

Leylin was still curious. How were the old witch and her daughter in spirit form, Jaye, doing in the secret plane?

And that Gargamel! As an evolution of the Loathsome Evil, this terrifying creature not only had the frightful strength of a rank 2 Magus, it also had many unpredictable techniques.

The destruction of the entrance to the secret plane would not obstruct it for too long.

If it were to be let out, the situation on the south coast would be

much the same as it was now, or perhaps even more chaotic!

If that Gargamel found traces of Leylin, it definitely would not let him off. After all, he had basically made a fool of it.

Hence, Leylin had an increasingly intense desire for power.

“The Branded Swordsman! As long as I complete this experiment, I would instantly gain two underlings with the power of official Magi. They would be unafraid of death, and there can be an unending stream of them to serve me!”

Leylin’s blue eyes flashed in excitement.

“A.I. Chip! Scan the data!”

[Beep! Mission established, beginning to collect data required. Microscopic scan ensuing!] The A.I. Chip loyally executed Leylin’s commands.

[Beep! Target’s Data. Strength: 29, Agility: 24, Vitality: 35, Spiritual Force: 19. Has been branded with runes: Flame Extension (for Male use) Effects: Able to store large amounts of flame elemental particles on the surface of the body and use it in battle. Each attack will have an additional damage from flames. All elemental particles can be set off at one go, and the effect is similar to a rank 1 Magus’ Lava Fireball. Estimated power: 30 degrees!]
[The brand’s power is operating normally. Parts of it have mild defects, and is estimated to be completely damaged in 1540 hours.]

With the A.I. Chip's microscope that could analyse on an atomic level, all information about Number 3's brand was presented in front of Leylin.

"This means that instantly formed Branded Swordsman only have a lifespan of two or so months?" Leylin stroked his chin. "There are also some flaws in terms of agility and spiritual force too..."

"However, as cannon fodder that can only be used once, this is enough!"

Leylin thought to himself.

After which, he made plans to exchange all the contribution points he had gained from his work at Four Seasons Garden for grown male Grand Knight slaves.

On the bodies of these two instantly formed Branded Swordsman, Leylin had also made some preparations beforehand to ensure they were completely under his control.

However, due to limitations in terms of his spiritual force and other areas, the A.I. Chip had calculated that he was only capable of controlling five Branded Swordsman at a time!

Only if a few out of the five Branded Swordsman died, leaving a vacant spot, could Leylin put his abilities to use and fill the spot

with other Branded Swordsman.

This was not the optimal situation, but for Leylin now, this was the best he could do.

As a rank 1 Magus, Leylin was able to control five considerably powerful Branded Swordsman. If rumours of this got out, it would definitely shock the entire south coast!

“Compress!”

After gathering data and finishing his experiments, Leylin pressed a strange looking rune onto Number 3’s back.

Instantly, a large amount of fire elemental particles lingering around Number 3’s body dulled, and the energy waves from his body began to weaken until he was at the level of a Grand Knight.

This was the technique he had made sense of using the information about spiritual force compression method the old witch had given him.

By using external forces to control the energy waves in the target’s body, others’ senses would be confused.

The Branded Swordsman was Leylin’s secret trump card and he naturally didn’t want to be discovered so quickly. Hence, putting on an act and concealing his strength was necessary.

Next, Leylin repeated what he had done to Number 3 on Number 2's body.

After ordering these two Grand Knights to stay in the laboratory, Leylin left for the Four Seasons Garden's library.

Usually, there would be a few official Magi or acolytes reading up or conversing. Though there were a lot of people, it was orderly and surprisingly quiet.

The library was now extremely quiet, but it just seemed desolate.

Desks and chairs that would always be filled were unoccupied, and there were the occasional leaves and petals from the garden landing on the seats. It was deathly still and lonely.

"My Lord!" An old manager was still at his post in the library. Upon seeing Leylin, even the decorative items on his body seemed to brighten up, and he bowed in greeting.

"No need for that! There seems to very few people now." Leylin leaned against the counter and spoke casually.

"All acolytes have left after receiving missions. I've never seen so few people in Four Seasons Garden before!" The old manager gave a bitter smile.

“Missions? Now? Could it be to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane ?” Leylin found that inconceivable.

In the battle between Magi, acolytes were naught but cannon fodder. Other than large-scale spell formations which might be somewhat effective, the acolytes were normally just easy kills for Magi.

This maneuver by Four Seasons Garden was just irrational.

“Of course, they aren’t going to go that deeply into the secret plane!” The old manager quickly explained to Leylin.

“Though many of those heading to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane are official Magi, there are also numerous wandering acolyte who have no fear of death. They had thoughts of going in to try their luck! The great Magi naturally did not bother with them, and now it’s our turn to be sent out...”

“After all, the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane is humongous. With a bit of luck, level 3 acolytes might not meet with opposing official Magi and make off with plenty of resources safely. Hence, there are some fearless level 3 acolytes who accepted the missions our Four Seasons Garden issued to explore the secret plane.”

It could be seen that the old manager was well informed, as Leylin himself was unaware about some of what he had said.

“Thank you!” Leylin continued, “Set up an entrance card for me.

I want to go to the library's secret room!"

Leylin then placed his identity token on the counter.

The old geezer processed everything quickly, and not long after, he returned the token and gave a translucent crystal card to Leylin.

"The price to read in the secret room is 10 contribution points per hour. Please take note of the time and leave before all your contribution points are used up."

The old geezer explained some important matters to Leylin.

Chapter 193: Turin Language

Similar to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, there were restricted areas in the Four Seasons Garden's library.

The place Leylin wanted to go to was the Four Seasons Garden's secret storage room.

In this private room, large amounts of knowledge regarding various subjects were open to official Magi. The fees were extremely expensive, and even the current Leylin was in pain over the costly price.

Although he could copy the information with the A.I. Chip, that still took time.

Leylin had calculated that even if he used up all his contribution points, it would barely give him enough time to record half of the information available in the room.

He had originally planned to amass enough contribution points first and then record all the information at one go.

But now...

Leylin went straight to the second floor of the library and waved his transparent crystal card at an old bookshelf.

Kreeeen! The bookshelf moved backwards, revealing a small passage.

Behind the passage was a small library with strangely shaped books placed on the rows of black wooden bookshelves within.

Some of the books even had pairs of arms and legs, and if not for the iron chains restraining them, they might just stealthily escape.

As he had a goal in mind, Leylin ignored them.

“A.I. Chip! Scan the catalogue. Search keywords: Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect, Emergency Passages...”

To find the content he needed from within this extremely extensive library, a lot of time would be wasted. Luckily for him, Leylin had the A.I. Chip, and within a few minutes, he found the information he wanted.

“I see...”

Following the A.I. Chip’s instructions, Leylin came to a corner and flipped through a very old book.

It was extremely thick and heavy, and the cover was an ashen grey. The A.I. Chip judged that this book was made of a very special ancient stone material.

This method of bookmaking belonged to an interesting group of tiny sub-humans—the Stone Men!

This was a race that had an appearance extremely similar to that of humans, but the main difference was the thick layer of calcite on their skin, which looked very much like someone casting a stone-skin spell.

Leylin read through this large book made of stone. On one of the pages, a strange spell formation had been carefully recorded.

“It’s this one! It’s more than 90% similar to the spell formation in the secret plane of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect!” Leylin’s expression brightened up.

Right before his eyes, the A.I. Chip brought up a picture of the ancient spell formation that he had obtained from the secret plane. He then compared it to the spell formation that was recorded down, and came to a conclusion that the two had a similarity of over 90%!

“That’s astonishing!”

Leylin continued analysing it, looking increasingly cautious.

Only now did he realise the true purpose of that spell formation—teleportation!

In the secret room that Leylin had found a corpse in while

escaping, there still existed an ancient teleportation formation!

This type of teleportation formation could instantaneously teleport a few Magi to a distance further than several times the length of the south coast. However, due to the geologic faults and the extinction of crucial ingredients, the current south coast no longer had traces of these formations.

The Stone Men then were the best slaves that the ancient Magi used to construct the teleportation formations. It was because of this reason that there were records of this race.

“So in the space between levels in the emergency passage, there’s actually an ancient teleportation formation?”

Just the thought of it made Leylin breathe more quickly.

The south coast was surrounded by regions filled with varying levels of danger. In some places, rank 2 or 3 Magi would only be sending themselves to their death if they went there!

It was because of the existence of such dangers that the Magi in the south coast would rather have an internal strife every once in a while to reduce the number of Magi than venture outwards. They were unwilling to expand the territory and gain more resources.

Even if Leylin wanted to leave the south coast and look for traces of the central mainland, he had no way to leave!

However, with the appearance of the ancient teleportation spell formation, Leylin saw a glimmer of hope!

If he had tremendous luck and found a new land, how much profit would Leylin receive as the controller of the transportation pathway to there?

“No, I can’t do this! Calm down! Calm down! Whether this ancient teleportation formation can still be used or not, and where it leads to are all unknown. To make effective use of it, I have to answer all of these questions!”

Leylin stroked his chin and calmed his emotions.

He then produced a tattered diary from within his robes. “I might be able to find an answer with information from this diary.”

In the secret compartment within the emergency passage, not only did Leylin find the ancient teleportation formation, but he also found what seemed to be the remains of a high-ranking Magus of the Ancient Spirit Slaying Sect. In addition, he also found some miscellaneous items and this diary on the deceased Magus’ body.

The first thing Leylin did upon returning was to order the A.I. Chip to record all of the information in this tattered diary.

Unfortunately, the language used in the diary was not one that the A.I. Chip was able to interpret. This made it difficult for Leylin to decipher the information within!

“Those strange people in black gowns who like to enslave spirits preferred to use an odd language and characters to issue commands. As long as we didn’t understand, we would be punished cruelly, which forced us to learn the name of that damned Turin Language!”

In the Stone Men’s books, Leylin found this written account.

“No wonder the A.I. Chip couldn’t interpret the contents of the diary. So it was the Turin Language!” Leylin suddenly understood.

The Turin Language was an exclusive language used in ancient times, which used special sound waves and light rays to transmit information. Even its characters contrasted hugely compared to other existing languages.

There were no records of this Turin Language in the A.I. Chip’s database.

“Turin Language?”

Leylin went around the bookshelf, and in a corner, he finally found a few books that seemed to be written in the Turin Language. There was even a book that gave a concise introduction to interpreting this language.

“A.I. Chip, scan it!”

In his excitement, Leylin hurriedly opened one of the books and ordered the A.I. Chip to record it down...

“My Lord, it’s already time for dinner. Are you planning to enjoy a dinner party here? Your contribution points are almost completely used up at this point...”

Leylin was immersed in the sea of knowledge and was using the A.I. Chip to translate and restore the information in the diary.

In summary, there was a crazy Magus who kept using spirits to create the Gargamel. In the end, the experiment backfired on him. This was truly a tragic story.

What made Leylin most gleeful were the few images similar to the ancient teleportation formation that he found at the back of the diary.

Based on the images, as well as some speculations on the A.I. Chip’s part, Leylin would be able to test whether the formation was still workable.

Now in a marvellous mood, Leylin didn’t bother with the old manager and glanced at his crystal card. “I got it. I’ll be right out!”

Disregarding the old man, who was bowing so deeply his head touched the floor, Leylin jogged out of the library.

“A.I. Chip! Based on the information from just now, how

complete was the previously recorded ancient teleportation formation?”

Leylin asked a little nervously.

[Beep! Mission established, sorting through information regarding teleportation, and comparing...]

The A.I. Chip’s mechanical voice sounded.

On the virtual screen in front of Leylin, large numbers of words and images flashed past, with the formation that had been previously recorded placed in the very centre.

[Beep! Comparison results: Completion of teleportation formation: 98.8%. Situation on other end of formation unknown, unable to calculate!]

The A.I. Chip’s answer made Leylin grin even more brightly.

Though there was still a troublesome Gargamel in the secret plane, Leylin felt that it would be in a hurry to escape. The secret compartment was hidden well, and there was a high chance that it was still well preserved.

The most important thing was the source of energy!

“Even ancient teleportation formations needed a source of

power! A.I. Chip, what does this formation need to be usable?”

Leylin asked.

[Magic crystal essence, or some object that contains a dense amount of energy particles!] The A.I. Chip intoned.

“Magic crystal essence huh? The magic crystal cards aren’t enough?” Leylin asked.

[Beep! The energy contained within is not enough, will require a purifying process to condense the energy. Projected ingredients: 10,000 magic crystal cards or more!]

The A.I. Chip’s reply made Leylin’s legs wobble.

“Ten thousand magic crystal cards? A single card has a value of over a thousand magic crystals! Ten thousand magic crystal cards would mean that I will need over ten million magic crystals?!”

After a year of amassing resources from the light and dark Magi, the magic crystals and materials he had amassed only amounted to a value of less than five million!

And this A.I. Chip said that it needed twice that amount!

In addition, the A.I. Chip only needed magic crystal cards. Leylin needed to exchange large amounts of resources, magic items,

knowledge, potions, and the like for magic crystals. This exchange would result in him racking up huge losses due to his pressing need for them.

“So many magic crystals... I’m afraid there will only be that amount stored in a few large scale Magus organisations’ resource-based secret planes.”

Leylin then shook his head. “This isn’t the time to think about that. There isn’t anything that requires me to risk my life, and even if it’s the Third Great Magus War, it is still limited to within the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, and won’t have much of an impact on the outside world!”

Currently, in the Third Great Magus War, the main reason for the fighting was a dispute over the rights to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, so the various disputes and conflicts had been taking place within it.

According to Leylin’s guess, this slice of the cake was way too big, and no single organisation would be capable of devouring it whole. It would definitely be shared with the various large magisteriums and guilds.

As for what Four Seasons Garden and the other guilds had to do, it was to do their best to fight for a larger share!

Chapter 194: Blackmail

While freely strolling through the streets, Leylin heard an odd sound travel into his ears.

“We’re in such a dangerous situation, and yet you’re still so relaxed... It looks like I need to make a suggestion to Decarte for him to give you a more challenging job.”

The tone of this voice was icy, giving Leylin the impression he had attracted the attention of a ravenous wolf.

Leylin gave a helpless laugh and scratched his nose, after which he turned back and gave a bow. “Lord Caesar!”

In front of him was a Magus clothed in a black robe. There were several blood-red threads that decorated the robe, and bloodlust constantly emanated from him.

What was most unforgettable was the eye on his forehead!

This three-eyed Magus was naturally Caesar of the hunting team. He was an elitist, and firmly believed in one’s origin, so after Leylin entered Four Seasons Garden, he just didn’t like Leylin and constantly caused him trouble.

“Wasn’t his entire hunting team deployed into the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane? Did something happen that required him to

rush back and report?”

While Leylin made his conjectures, he explained himself to Caesar. “ I, your subordinate, have completed all missions required for me to receive my monthly allocations, and have decided to take a walk to settle my mind.”

“I see! Hehe, you’re very capable. There might be a position that suits you better...”

Unexpectedly, Caesar did not inconvenience him, and only said something profound before leaving.

Leylin was left standing on the road, deep in thought.

“What did he mean by that?”

Soon enough, Leylin found out the meaning to Caesar’s words.

During dinner, a banquet was held in the hall. Members of the Potioneering team gathered in the hall and enjoyed a sumptuous meal.

Hazelnut chicken, roasted suckling pig, honey wine, and other delicious commonplace dishes were everywhere, arranged like trash on every corner.

At the centre of the table, there were also various delicacies that

were only available in the Magus World.

Bubble fish! Dolosen Snake! Butter Yak! In addition, a lot of treasured ingredients that Leylin didn't even know the names of were arranged neatly there.

The alluring smell of fine wine spread in the air, tempting everyone's palate.

"There must have been much blood shed by the acolytes in preparing these dishes."

Leylin picked up a piece of baked bubble fish, and while his taste buds enjoyed the new experience, he heaved an inward sigh of content.

This bubble fish was a high energy creature in the Magus World with a strength of a level 2 or 3 acolyte.

The Four Seasons Garden's magic kitchen specifically issued requests for acolytes to gather the fish.

Behind this feast, there were the blood, sweat, and tears of countless acolytes who had gone on dangerous expeditions. The results of their efforts, which had garnered them some insignificant returns, eventually turned into gourmet food on the official Magi's tables!

"It's for this reason that I hope to become the person who will

deprive others, and not get deprived myself!”

Leylin had a resolute look in his eyes while still maintaining a kind smile about his lips. He took another roasted pig trotter and put it on his plate.

With the nearing of his bloodline’s second transition, Leylin could feel abnormalities in his usual condition.

The most obvious one was a heightened appetite, particularly for the flesh of considerably strong, high-energy creatures.

After the sumptuous dinner, Decarte knocked on a golden cup on the table.

Ding-ling!

The entire room instantly turned silent. Leylin and the other Magi stood, waiting for the Potioneering team’s leader to issue missions and inform them of any arrangements.

“Everyone! Before we get into the important matters, let me announce something!”

Decarte looked at the Magi present and cleared his throat.

“Today, the hunting team’s Caesar looked for me, hoping to have a few Potion Masters join him! You must know that in the Eternal

River Plains' secret plane, there are frequent battles, resulting in a lack of healers. Many Potion Masters can use potions to achieve the same effect as healers.”

Hearing Decarte's words, Leylin's heart suddenly lurched.

“Now, I'll announce the list of people to be sent there. They are Wilkenson, Saladin... and lastly, Leylin!”

As expected, Decarte increased his volume and read out Leylin's name last.

In that instant, Leylin felt countless pairs of eyes staring at him.

Within these gazes were thoughts of curiosity, worry, and most prominently, schadenfreude.

His ostensible team leader was sighing heavily by the side. After Leylin left, with Martin's abilities, it would be impossible to tackle the heavy workload that resulted from the war. However, Martin did not have the courage to dispute it, since this was the decision of the Potioneering team's leader.

“Oh, my heavens! Leylin! What do we do?”

His partner, Oak, seemed to be completely stunned and gaped at Leylin.

“Don’t worry! Even if I am sent to the battlefield, I’ll most likely be working at the back, and won’t be in any real danger!” Seeing that there was someone who genuinely worried for him, a smile appeared on Leylin’s face.

In reality, was there any place on a battlefield that was absolutely safe, especially when he was directly under that three-eyed Magus, Caesar?

The moment he heard Decarte announce his name, Leylin immediately thought about Caesar’s cryptic smile.

“The aforementioned Magi have five days to prepare, after which they will be required to go to Four Seasons Garden’s branch at the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane and report. Otherwise, you will be seen as a traitor!”

Decarte seemed to be warning them at the end.

After offending the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy and the Lilytell family, which were both large dark Magi powers, Leylin had no wish to become enemies with an even stronger white Magi organisation.

If it came to that, he would no longer have a place on the south coast.

.....

A day later, Leylin hastily organised everything and brought his two Great Knight servants along. They set off for the Eternal River Plains.

The sun shone mercilessly in the sky.

Smoke and dust flew above the ground, and not far away, the air seemed to be distorted.

This torrid heat meant there were almost no people walking on the main street.

Thud Thud Thud! At this moment, three quick horses hurtled past destroying the calmness and quiet atmosphere on this road.

“Master! There’s some shade in front. Shall we take a break there?”

Number 2 reined in his horse and asked Leylin, who was riding behind him.

“Let us take a rest. Although we can still manage, the poor horses can’t anymore!”

Leylin pointed to the horses, which were on the verge of frothing at the mouth.

Behind him, there were a few idle horses, on top of which were

boxes and the other luggage they needed had been tied down. They looked listless, with their ears pressed to their heads, and the light in their eyes dim.

If Leylin was travelling alone, he naturally could travel on the Venom Wyvern.

However, he had to bring his two Grand Knight subordinates and even had to haul around a large amount of luggage. With this large amount of things, it naturally exceeded the burden that the Venom Wyvern could carry.

The Nightless City didn't have any airships that could directly transport people to the Eternal River Plains' secret plane, so Leylin could only rely on the most primitive method, which was traveling on horseback.

As for the Venom Wyvern, Leylin commanded it to scout the area in the sky and accompany them on their journey.

“Master! Here's some water!”

Leylin found a clean rock for himself to sit on. Number 3, who was behind him, passed him a large leather pouch.

“En!” Leylin drank from it.

Although the temperature did not impact his vitality very much, the ice cold water washing down his throat gave him a very

refreshing sensation.

“Hmmm?”

Suddenly, a gray fog covered the area surrounding the shade of the trees they were under.

Under the dim light, the various branches of the trees looked like the hands of monsters, as if wanting to grab hold of Leylin and the group.

At the same time, a drowsy feeling began to enshroud the three of them.

“Who is it?” Number 2 and Number 3 expanded their muscles and were ready to emit energy waves.

Leylin’s icy glare stopped them, and they stiffly collapsed onto the floor.

“Hei Hei... Blood Rogue, these two Grand Knights of yours have been modified well! They can actually defend against my hypnosis!” The voice of a little boy travelled over.

Leylin’s brows furrowed as he heard the name ‘Blood Rogue’.

He was still dressed as a normal Magus, yet this dark Magus from the Thousand Meddling Hands had actually seen through his

disguise. From the looks of it, despite his efforts to conceal his identity, part of what he had done had been too high profile, resulting in the discovery of his identity.

It was very likely that even the Four Seasons Garden had similar suspicions about him!

It was because of this that Decarte was glad to see Caesar deploy Leylin elsewhere, and even chairman Reynold did not have any objections.

“Boy! What’s the matter?”

Since he had been found out, Leylin asked bluntly.

“Hehe... This is about Old Devil. She is an elder of the organisation after all, and it’s not known whether she is currently alive or dead. ‘Boss’ had instructed us to investigate thoroughly. According to what I know, her final appearance was to invite you and Brass Ring to participate in an expedition...”

“You’re correct! However, Brass Ring had perished inside! As for Old Devil, she is currently not able to leave! As for the secret plane’s location, I have no comments about that!”

Leylin did not believe that they would be this concerned about her whereabouts. It was more likely that they were coveting Old Devil’s position as an elder!

As expected, after hearing Leylin's answer, the boy snickered. "You're the Blood Rogue, after all! The way you work is straightforward and clear-cut! Let's stop talking about Old Devil and move on. I currently bring you a mission from Boss!"

With the mention of this boss, the boy sounded more serious.

"What's the meaning of this? Since when does the Thousand Meddling Hands force missions on their members?" Leylin wrinkled his brows. From the looks of it, the all-powerful dark Magus behind the Thousand Meddling Hands had finally been lured to the surface.

"Of course, there wasn't anything like this before! However, it's all different now! I believe that you will definitely do something for the organisation in order to protect your identity. Am I right, Leylin—or shall I say, Blood Rogue!"

The boy began to threaten him, a hint of arrogance apparent in his tone.

Chapter 195: Impetuous

“What mission?” Leylin asked expressionlessly. However, if there were people around him who knew him well, they would be able to tell how annoyed he was.

“The main purpose of you going to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane is to pass on information from the internal unit of Four Seasons Garden. At crucial moments, you are to coordinate with us and destroy the defense formations within!”

The boy sounded incredibly arrogant, making Leylin more annoyed.

“That means I’d be an undercover, right? How about that agreement I signed? If I betray Four Seasons Garden I’ll definitely be punished by the Trial’s Eye, no?”

“That... The boss will take care of it for you!” The boy was obviously insincere.

“In other words, you’re not giving me any benefits and want me to give up my life for you! Do you guys think I’m so easy to bully?”

Leylin suddenly laughed sarcastically, a red colour flashing in his eyes.

Rumble!

Immediately after he spoke, Leylin brazenly attacked!

Countless fireballs the size of human heads hurtled towards the boy's direction.

The intense flames swept everywhere, and the mist was quickly evaporated, revealing the figure of a little boy in a darkened corner.

“Are you crazy?” The boy roared, outraged.

“You're the crazy ones! How dare you threaten me!”

Leylin coldly replied, his two hands becoming completely red as they clawed forward mercilessly.

Crimson Palm! Blood Rogue's famous move!

Huge blood-red claws swept across the air, grand flames burning atop the phantom claws.

With the added bonus from Leylin's elemental essence conversion, this spell had already reached a strength of almost 34 degrees!

“Fuck!”

The little boy was in bad shape after the bout of fireballs being thrown at him despite rolling and trying to dodge the attack. He was dusty all over and looked like a clown.

After seeing Leylin using Blood Rogue's move, his entire face changed.

Who knew Leylin would be so crazy and so powerful? His might far surpassed that of a semi-converted Magus.

The little boy had thought that he had blackmail material on his hands. He knew of Leylin's identity and the moment he told Leylin he expected that Leylin would obediently do as the boy ordered, just like a loyal dog, which would allow the boy to gain some additional benefits.

But he never imagined that Leylin would not hesitate and attack with no qualms!

Upon seeing those claws, the boy made a strange sound and quickly tugged at a strange pendant from his chest and threw it on the ground.

Chi Chi

Numerous ice crystals emerged, forming a sparkling and translucent ice mirror in front of the little boy.

Bang!

The huge, sharp phantom claws had traces of crimson flames and crashed against the mirror, producing an immense sound.

Weng Weng

Flames and ice crystals flew everywhere.

Each time an ice crystal fell, a thick layer of ice would form on the ground. Anything that came into contact with the crimson flames corroded, whether they be trees, moles or even rocks. Everything turned into a pile of grey powder!

“You thought a high-grade scroll could save you? How naive!”

Leylin strode forward, chasing after the boy.

“This is a magic scroll with instantaneous casting that I spent 250 thousand magic crystals on!” An expression of regret and rage formed on his face, and his muscles were twitching.

“You dare to... You actually dare to... You will pay!”

As he yelled, he produced a magic item that was emitting strong energy waves, ready to attack!

“Imprison!”

At the same time, Leylin made a low howl, and on his right arm, a metal hoop that seemed to be a decoration suddenly gave off light and shone on his body.

The boy who had been targeted by the Hoop of Imprisonment was like an insect stuck in amber, completely immobile and unable to use the magic item in his hands.

“You dare to threaten me?”

Leylin advanced, kicking the magic item out of the boy’s hands and lifted him with one arm.

“You... There are still many others behind me that know your identity. The moment I die here, you’ll... Argh!”

The little boy forced out words from the gap between his teeth, but all that answered him was a vicious slap to the face.

Pa Pa Pa Pa!

Leylin’s strength was 7.1, and this merciless slaps to the boy’s face made both his cheeks swell up instantly. Some of his teeth fell and his mouth was full of blood, rendering him unable to pronounce properly.

After slapping the boy, Leylin grabbed him by the neck and raised him to eye level.

“Don’t even think about blackmailing me, or you’ll die a terrible death!”

“You think I’m afraid of having my identity exposed? Hehe... At most, we’ll part ways and I’ll wander around. Before that, however, I will kill you, no matter who is backing you!”

A dark, menacing look arose in Leylin’s eyes, shaking the boy to the core.

Too scary! This boy was thoroughly terrified!

He was now extremely regretful. This Leylin was basically a lunatic and dreaded nothing. He had a premonition that if he continued with this unyielding attitude, Leylin would definitely kill him!

At this moment, it was as if he had been drenched from head to toe by a bucket of cold water—his head cleared up immediately.

“Uh... Lo-Lord Leylin! I apologise. Please forgive me for my offense!”

As his mouth was very swollen, his words weren’t clear but the meaning was understandable.

“What did you say? Louder!” Leylin mocked with a sneer, tightening the strength in his hand.

Hearing a strange sound emitted from his neck, the boy, who even had his innate spells suppressed completely, gave up.

He trembled violently, tears and snot dripping down his face. “Lord Leylin! Lord Leylin, I was wrong! Please forgive me!”

Leylin peered at him curiously, making him feel as if he was facing an imminent catastrophe.

Suddenly, Leylin released his hand and the boy fell to the floor.

He breathed in fresh air in huge gulps, an unexpected sense of blessed relief in his heart.

Of course, his head was still lowered lifelessly and he did not dare meet Leylin’s gaze.

“People only reveal their true self when in the face of death...” Leylin looked at the pitiful state the boy was in and sighed to himself.

“Get lost! Have the person backing you to speak to me!”

At the same time, Leylin bent and picked up the magic item the

boy had dropped.

It was something like a dagger. Based on the A.I. Chip's probe, the level of energy within had reached that of a middle-grade magic artifact.

“Also, this magic artifact will now belong to me as the price of offending me!”

If not for the fact that a rank 2 Magus was behind this boy and also wanting to avoid having a falling out with Thousand Meddling Hands, Leylin would have killed him long ago.

However, he had released the boy, but Leylin definitely wanted him to pay the price in pain. If not, this sort of person would keep appearing in front of him.

Seeing the boy who was escaping, scared witless, Leylin contemplated.

This resource-based secret plane's size was unprecedented in history and was an enormous chunk of fleshy meat. Even a rank 2 Magus operating the Thousand Meddling Hands from the shadows had been lured out.

And behind the rank 2 Magus, there were definitely other large organisations from the dark Magi region.

After all, with just a Thousand Meddling Hands, all they could do

was reap the convenient benefits. How else would they have the chance to participate in such a large-scale battle?

“This is like a game of chess. How annoying!”

Leylin had a feeling that if he went to the secret plane, he would definitely be embroiled in a troublesome spiral of events.

Unfortunately, the pressure given by the dark and light Magi gave him no choice but to move like a chess piece, based on a pre-decided route.

“You want to make use of me? I wonder if you’re ready yet.”

Looking at the sky in the distance, Leylin smirked.

The Thousand Meddling Hands’ reaction was extremely quick. That night, Leylin saw the person backing the boy.

The orange rays of light of the setting sun constantly became duller, until the black curtain of night shrouded the area.

Just as Number 2 and Number 3 were preparing to set up tents, Leylin shot a glance at a white owl on a large tree nearby.

“I’m going to take a walk alone. You don’t have to come with me!”

“Yes, master!” Number 2 and Number 3 answered in unison.

Following the white owl, Leylin came to the side of a curved river. On a white and large rock, a figure could be seen standing erect.

Around him was a thick green fog emanating throughout, blocking his face entirely.

“Giant?” Leylin asked, surprised.

For his first mission, Leylin had worked with Giant, whose prowess indicated the peak of a rank 1 Magus. He had never thought that this would be the one supporting the little boy!

“He’s already told me everything that happened just now. He was a little too much, so I hope to apologise on his behalf! You may take the bloody dagger, a magic artifact, as compensation!”

Giant’s voice was low and soothing and did not speak up for the little boy which made Leylin so shocked.

“I know a bit about you. The organisation definitely will treat those who contribute to us well! As long as you do this job well, I’m telling you that you can get about 50% profit! We can even mediate between you and the Lilytell family, so that you can return to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy. Of course, you can choose other dark Magi organisations. Our door is always open to you...”

The Giant's offer exceeded Leylin's expectations.

To allow him to suppress the situation with Lilytell family and return to Abyssal Bone Forest Academy, this Thousand Meddling Hands' power was probably far from what he could imagine.

“What about the contract with the Trial's Eye?” Leylin asked for information about what he was most concerned about.

Chapter 196: Acquaintances

“I signed the contract under the witness of the Trial’s Eye, promising not to do anything that would harm Four Seasons Garden’s interests! If I go back on that agreement, I would undergo judgment...”

This was Leylin’s largest concern.

If he had the choice, he didn’t want to harm Four Seasons Garden since they had treated him quite well from the beginning.

“That’s easily solved! Here is a solution of Filthy Birds’ wings. As long as you have it, you can nullify your contract with the Four Seasons Garden!”

Giant threw a bottle of grey solution towards Leylin.

“You even have items that are already extinct!” Leylin caught the bottle and let the A.I. Chip test the authenticity of the item. The results made him gasp.

With such a degree of preparation, it wouldn’t be a stretch to say that this had been premeditated long ago.

“Hehe... This isn’t mine but belongs to the ‘Boss’ behind me. He especially left this for you from his own collection!”

Giant did not claim the credit for himself and used a straightforward tone, which made Leylin slightly fearful.

“So, what’s your answer?”

“Acknowledging the strength of others is the instinct of all dark Magi. I first need to verify your strength!” Leylin pondered for a moment and then spoke.

“You will see...” Giant’s voice began to be less discernible.

Large amounts of green mist shrouded the surrounding area, enveloping Leylin within.

Some time later, the mist dispersed and Leylin left, his expression serious. He seemed to be worrying about many things.

“I never thought it’d be him...”

Following which, Leylin calmed himself and returned to his accommodations, as if nothing had happened.

After a night passed, Leylin continued on his journey.

The Eternal River Plains were situated at the border between the light and dark Magi’s territories. Security there was the most chaotic.

Here, even within the city, armed confrontations, robbery, murder, and other crimes happened daily. At times, there would even be the occasional battle between Magi!

In this situation, the guards of the city were more like professional corpse carriers and were in charge of clearing the roads everyday.

After Eternal River Plains' secret plane had been discovered, a large number of Magi flowed in, causing even more chaos in this place.

On the way, just the number of people who were looking to seek revenge was above 15. This meant that every once in awhile, there would be someone with such a motivation.

If not for Leylin and his group wearing clothing that gave them an air of mystery, even Magi like them might meet with some trouble.

After walking out of a city of regular humans, Leylin suddenly started, seeming to have seen some familiar figures.

“Master, what’s wrong? Is there something wrong with those acolytes?”

Number 2 and 3 approached him and enquired.

“It’s nothing!” Leylin answered casually. Even if it was them,

they were from two different worlds. Leylin wasn't planning on maintaining any contact with them, and passing them by. This might be the best for them.

Sometimes, however, fate was such a strange thing that could not be hindered.

Just as Leylin was hastening his travelling and leaving the gates, he bumped into those acolytes from earlier.

“Leylin! Hi! Leylin! Is that you?” Within the group of acolytes, a tall young man standing in the front was yelling excitedly.

They had been quite a distance away previously, but now that they met, the acolyte opposite to Leylin had instantly recognised him.

“Long time no see!” Leylin watched the acolytes, who were moving forward attentively, and couldn't help but give a gentle smile in greeting.

After strengthening his body, Leylin's physique and sight had vastly improved. He could easily see that out of all the acolytes, the one who had shouted was very tall and had a head of long golden hair, thick eyebrows, large eyes, and a high nose bridge.

There was also a female acolyte with an exquisitely curvy body, silver hair and eyes like rubies. She constantly emanated an exotic charm.

Leylin immediately recognised these two acolytes. They were the people he hadn't seen in ages—George and Bessita!

“But isn't George an acolyte at the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower? Why is he together with Bessita, who's from Wetland Gardens Academy?”

This thought went through his mind for a split second before he was interrupted, as George had brought Bessita and the others to approach him.

“Leylin, it's really you! I thought I'd gotten the wrong person!”

George was a good friend that he'd made on that first journey in the beginning, and just like before, he affectionately gave Leylin a bear hug.

Bessita, on the other hand, was twiddling her fingers at the side, seemingly embarrassed.

At the beginning, she had caused much trouble for Leylin. Of course, after Leylin had viciously beat up her 'flower guardian' as a threat to her, this woman had become very silent.

However, she was still able to pass the magician aptitude test and enter the Wetland Gardens Academy.

“Hi, Leylin.” Bessita looked to be rather indifferent.

“Come here! Leylin, let me introduce you. This is Alexander!” George pointed at a youth with reddish-brown hair.

“This here is Lana! And the beauty in pink clothing is our long distance attacker— Shiera!”

After that, George introduced the two female acolytes beside him. Lana was alright, but Sheira aggressively pinched the flesh on George’s waist. He immediately let out exaggerated sounds of pain; it looked as if these two had a less innocent relationship.

Leylin couldn’t help but glance at Sheila more closely. She wore pink hunter gear that exposed a pair of milky white thighs. She was tall and carried a green wooden bow, looking to be a good match with George.

Even Leylin had to admit that George had pretty good taste.

“Leylin, why aren’t you introducing your two friends here to us?” After saying that, George mock punched Leylin’s chest, which stunned him a little.

He looked at his own attire and then responded.

For the sake of convenience while travelling, Leylin and his two Grand Knights had on civilian clothing. After obtaining the old witch’s spirit force compression method, he would also habitually

conceal his energy waves, which indicated that he was an official Magus.

His two spiritually bound slaves were treated the same way.

Hence, George and the others, who were still acolytes, obviously were unable to discover Leylin's concealment and treated him as a regular acolyte.

"These are my two friends. We met on the way and appeared to be going to the same place. They aren't very talkative and are a little antisocial!"

Leylin threw a sculpture of a wyvern into Number 2 and Number 3's hands. "Take this and leave first. We'll meet at our destination!"

Upon receiving their master's secret instructions, Number 2 and Number 3 nodded and left on horseback.

"Leylin, it's best if you're warier when interacting with them. I always feel uncomfortable around them..."

George looked at the figures of Number 2 and Number 3 as they left, and he whispered to Leylin.

"Don't worry, I know my limits!"

Leylin nodded.

“Haha... Let’s not talk about this anymore. Leylin, we haven’t met in six or seven years, huh? This time, we have to drink to our heart’s content!”

George naturally put an arm around Leylin’s shoulder, and one could hear his excessive and proud laughter from miles away. “Guess what? Two years ago, I advanced and became a level 3 acolyte! Even my mentor complimented me for this! But it’s not much; it can’t be helped that I only have a fourth-grade aptitude.”

Due to this chance meeting, Leylin and George dispelled all thoughts of leaving the city and returned inside. They found a small bar and prepared to reminisce.

After two beers, Leylin had gleaned everything he wanted to know from George.

George was obviously still a student of Ennea Ivory Ring Tower, and so was his girlfriend, Sheira.

Bessita, Lana, and that guy called Alexander were all acolytes from the Wetland Gardens Academy.

The reason for their trip here was to complete missions issued by their respective academies. George and Bessita knew each other well, so the two little teams naturally travelled together.

“We’re in deep trouble. We were actually allocated a defence mission in which we must enter, as well as establish a presence in the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane!” George had a look of prolonged suffering on his face, and when they got to this topic, even Sheira and Bessita looked gloomy.

The secret plane was under the control of official Magi, and a few acolytes like them wouldn’t be able to create a tiny disarray within. They were but cannon fodder, and could die at any time.

Leylin glanced at these people. In this group of five that had temporarily been banded together, George and Bessita were level 3 acolytes, and the other three had reached level 2. In general, their total power was similar to the group of five acolytes that he had destroyed outside the Zither Moon Town.

“Oh, right! How about you, Leylin? Your aura seems pretty strong. You must be a level 3 acolyte, right?”

George seemed to be asking without any intent. Bessita, who was using a straw to drink her beverage, visibly strained to hear his answer.

“I was lucky enough to advance to a level 3 acolyte a few months ago!” Leylin chuckled.

“It’s not easy to advance to a level 3 acolyte! Come! Let us drink to our future as Magi!”

George hid none of his thoughts and yelled, attracting the attention of the surrounding people.

“Cheers!” Six glasses of beer clinked together.

After a bout of drinking, George asked, “Leylin, where are you now? In the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy? Only after entering my academy did I find out that the Abyssal Bone Forest Academy was a dark Magus academy that was at odds with us. It’s even forbidden for us to communicate with them.”

“What? Abyssal Bone Forest?! That Abyssal Bone Forest Academy?”

The moment the words came out of George’s mouth, Lana and Alexander were like kittens who had had their tails stepped on, and jumped in shock.

Sheira didn’t say anything, but the gaze in her eyes was more guarded when looking at Leylin.

“Alright! Alright! Don’t be this tense! Leylin and I are good friends; he is different from other dark Magi...”

Only then did George realise the slip of his tongue, as he stood and awkwardly gave a closure on the topic.

Chapter 197: George And Bessita

Leylin rubbed his nose upon seeing the cautious expressions of the few people around him.

In the Magus world, dark Magi and light Magi were archenemies. And in the Eternal River Plains, which was surrounded by the opposing forces on each side, not attacking after finding out Leylin was a dark Magus showed the immense trust they had in George.

“I left the domain of the dark Magi a few years ago and now live in Nightless City.”

Leylin thought and spoke a half-truth, “I’m currently studying at Four Seasons Garden.”

“See? I knew it! Leylin, you’re brave and honest. How could someone like you be a cruel dark Magus?”

George laughed out gleefully.

Shiera and the others appeared very embarrassed.

The number of Magi that had been killed by Leylin was not public knowledge, but those Magi would have been furious after hearing George’s words.

“Oh, by the way, Leylin, are you going to the secret plane?”

The Eternal River’s secret plane was a major event that triggered an earth-shaking response among the Magi of the south coast. The information regarding the secret plane had spread very quickly, and George and the others were not entirely clueless about it.

Leylin saw George’s anxious look and the other acolytes’ trading gazes, and he immediately understood.

It seemed that George thought Leylin to be one of the acolytes, who were naive and wanted to try their luck within the secret plane.

Of course, this wasn’t surprising since after news about the secret plane spread, acolytes and Magi alike from all over started to convene at this location.

The whole journey was laced with danger. Some died en route, and others would struggle at the entrance and be unable to enter, while others were lured or coerced by the larger powers and became cannon fodder.

There was an extremely small minority of acolytes who would be successful in acquiring some resources from the secret plane and return to Nightless City and other Magi cities. This resulted in a reaction from the magicians in the cities, which in turn incited more acolytes to adventure into the plane.

It was clear that George and the others also considered Leylin to be just like these acolytes.

“Leylin...” George turned silent, seeming to be carefully considering his next words. “The danger inside the secret plane is not something that we acolytes can handle. Only the official Magi, who are the main forces inside the plane, can stay within for long durations of time.”

“Many of my friends suffered inside. You’re still young and need not...”

“Just let him go!” Bessita suddenly spoke up.

“If he’s lucky, he can get some resources and even advance!”

George furrowed his brows. How could one count on such a thing as luck? Bessita was speaking of it too lightly.

“Actually, I was issued a mission by the academy. I have no choice but to go inside the secret plane.” Leylin sardonically stated.

“I see... No wonder then. I warned you only because it doesn’t seem to be in your nature to undertake such a dangerous task.” George patted his close friend’s shoulder in empathy and forced a smile.

“In this situation, we are probably all in the same boat and might even be assigned to the same location. After all, within the secret

plane, the light Magi have gathered and created an alliance.”

After hearing that Leylin had been forced to come to the secret plane just like them, Shiera, Alexander, and the others revealed expressions of sympathy. Leylin’s situation was one they could empathise with.

These kinds of missions were usually suicidal by nature. Only those who had no backing or acolytes who had offended important people would be dispatched by their academies to complete these missions.

When he turned, he saw a hint of an expression on Bessita’s face. Something that seemed like... delight?

“Is this girl still brooding over what happened last time?”

Leylin inwardly grinned and actually found this a novelty.

At his current level, he had already left Bessita far in the dust.

Many Magi had died at Leylin’s hands; what trouble could a lowly acolyte cause?

No matter how she bared her fangs and made threatening gestures at Leylin, she was akin to a small kitten playing with him.

“Since we’re all going the same way, how about you join us too,

Leylin?”

At this moment, George put forth a proposal.

“Sure!” Leylin gauged that he still had quite a bit of time and, considering the speed at which George and his friends were travelling, he could reach the Eternal River Plain’s secret plane well before the deadline. Thus, he agreed.

His relationship with George was quite good, so he could help out if the need arose.

Besides, there were still some matters that needed to be resolved between him and Bessita.

“Very good. Since Leylin’s a level 3 acolyte as well, our combined battle strength has increased by a lot. Even if we meet a bandit, there’s no need to be afraid.” George seemed very excited.

The other acolytes did not refute him.

“Bandit? You’re actually afraid of bandits?” Leylin asked, rather stunned. In his mind, the so-called bandits were just peasant farmers with grass pitchforks and fishing spears.

“Oh, you don’t know about this?” George seemed to be even more amazed than Leylin. “I can’t believe you came this far when you’re so overwhelming ignorant about the whole situation!”

Immediately, George carefully explained to Leylin, “If it was a bandit group composed of only ordinary humans, then there’s no need for us to worry. Shiera can single-handedly kill all those who come. However, the situation at the Eternal River Plains is different. Due to the number of acolytes travelling there alone, bandit groups that specifically target magicians have appeared. There are even rumours that official Magi are behind these bandit groups.”

Due to large increase in the number of magicians travelling to the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane, the public security in that area was extremely chaotic. Some scattered dark magicians naturally had the idea to fight for the resources.

However, as these dark magicians were mostly acolytes, their strength was inadequate when compared to Leylin.

If they were official Magi, the greedy dark magicians would be unwilling to attack, but if they were mere acolytes, then they would not be as hesitant. Compared to the light Magi, who had grown in a protected environment like flowers in a greenhouse, acolytes on the dark side who had matured under the law of the jungle were obviously more powerful in battle. With their superior fighting instincts and their manipulation of timing when attacking, they were far more capable than their light acolyte peers.

Most of the acolytes in the area, especially those who were leaving, might be carrying some precious resources from the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. If bandits ran into any of these

acolytes, it would be enough for them to make a fortune!

There were several dark magician acolytes that had these thoughts.

Hence, the way to the Eternal River Plains' secret plane was full of danger.

Many acolytes who were dreaming of panning for gold usually died before reaching the secret plane.

Leylin thought back to how he had not run into any big bandit groups during his journey.

Occasionally, he had encountered a few inexperienced local thieves that had been dealt with by Number 2 and Number 3.

These two men had already advanced after receiving the incomplete runes of Branded Swordsmen and all ordinary men or acolytes were easily dealt with with a few sword attacks.

“So that’s what’s happening. It seems that I’ve been rather lucky.” Leylin massaged his temples and laughed.

“I can’t help saying this, but man, your luck is too good! However, this has just been the outlying areas. As we continue to travel further into the Eternal River Plains, there will be more of these kinds of bandits. As the light Magi will focus all their energy on the secret plane, some entrances might have a generous amount

of warnings placed, but other regions will just be disregarded...”

George had a good grasp of Leylin’s character and knew that this friend of his was not what he seemed to be on the surface. He was sure to have some trump cards.

He wasn’t wrong either, since Leylin knew how to adapt to circumstances and act accordingly.

The stronger Leylin was, the more secure his band of comrades would be. If he continued asking further, it would only result in Leylin being pressured to leave, which did not work well for their situation.

It was but a mere assumption, but since Leylin could advance to a level 3 acolyte so quickly and receive solo missions, that meant he definitely had a great trump card. Poor George didn’t even consider the possibility that Leylin had already advanced to an official Magus.

After all, there was a wide chasm between a level 3 acolyte and the realm of official Magi.

Even if it was the most amazing genius, promoting to the Magus realm before 30 years of age was in itself a most outstanding speed of advancement.

George, who knew that Leylin only had a third-grade aptitude, did not bother considering that all.

“Good! Now that you’re a member of our group, let’s enjoy a toast.” George, as always, was very welcoming and put an arm around Leylin’s shoulder, patting Leylin’s chest with his other arm.

“At least we’re not lacking good wine nor beautiful women. Do you see that red-clothed beauty beside the bar counter? She’s making bedroom eyes at you. If you just go up and speak to her, I bet she’ll be yours tonight! And then... heh!”

George hadn’t said much and had already reverted to his lecherous nature. Beside him, Shiera’s face changed and the next moment, George let out a sharp scream and begged for forgiveness.

“Haha...”

Seeing this, the acolytes from the Wetland Gardens Academy and Leylin were unable to keep a straight face.

Leylin obviously did not hit on anyone in the end, since George had been joking around to liven up the atmosphere.

The result of this drinking session was surprisingly good. At least, after seeing Leylin produce the insignia of Four Seasons Garden, the relations between Leylin, Alexander and the rest of the acolytes all turned for the better.

Bessita appeared to be very happy to welcome Leylin as their new

comrade.

The group rested in the small town for a while, before setting off early in the morning and resuming their journey.

The missions assigned by Ennea Ivory Ring Tower and Wetland Gardens Academy all had time limits. George and the others had to report to a designated area within a stipulated time. If not, they would be labeled as criminals and be on their school's wanted list.

They were mere acolytes! If something like this were to happen, they would be finished for the rest of their lives!

Hence, after receiving the mission, they could only obey the arrangements of the organisation no matter how unwilling they were. There was little choice but to enter the Eternal River Plains' secret plane and accept the unknown fate their future held.

Chapter 198: Jamu

The azure blue sky was covered with white clouds, and there seemed to be no end to this wonderful sight.

Beside a ramrod straight street, a winding, clear stream flowed. On the bed of the creek white pebbles and green fish could clearly be seen.

“As long as we go through this Pome Alley, we’ll reach our destination. It’s an entrance to Eternal River Plain’s secret plane located in Marat Canyon. It only takes a day for us to get there, so we can afford to stroll there! Should we find a place and take a rest?”

George looked at the yellow map drawn on parchment paper and produced a compass. He checked his bearings and spoke to Leylin and the others as he looked back.

“Stop? If it’s that near, then wouldn’t it be better if we went and rested there?”

Sheira glared at George.

This situation had already occurred multiple times within this small group. Every time George had a suggestion, Sheira would vehemently shoot him down, and George would usually automatically give up.

It was such a regular occurrence that even Leylin had become used to it.

Perhaps only this kind of woman would be able to control a playboy like George. Leylin noted that George seemed to be enjoying this situation.

Bessita, on the other hand, had been silent the whole time. She did not give her opinion on anything, and were it not for her being the only level 3 acolyte from Wetland Gardens Academy, she might have been forgotten.

“Alright, alright! Let’s be on our way!” Just as expected, upon hearing Sheira’s voice, George quickly raised both his arms and surrendered. Leylin rolled his eyes at him.

Leylin was a little surprised as he looked at the other route in front of them.

With Leylin’s current spiritual force, he could clearly tell that not far away, there was a team of acolytes. They were rushing in their direction and seemed to be heading for Marat Canyon as well.

Based on their speed, it seemed that they were going to encounter Leylin’s group soon.

Their might was obviously greater than George’s group by one or two levels. Leylin could also feel the undulations created by

magical artifacts on the leader's body.

Although it was just a low-grade magic artifact, that alone was already very valuable.

Only truly talented acolytes and the successors of large families were in possession of magic artifacts. The battle might of these acolytes was definitely at the peak of level 3, and besides official Magi, they feared no one!

About three minutes later, Sheira's face changed.

“Be careful! Bourbon discovered that there are acolytes nearing us!”

As the one in charge of long-range attacks, Sheira was naturally also the sentinel. Bourbon was an unusual owl that she was raising that could share its field of vision with her within a specific range.

“Acolytes?”

George's expression darkened and he cursed. “Fuck! I hope our luck isn't that bad. Alert!”

Meeting foreign acolytes in the open wasn't something that could be ignored. There was a possibility that conflict between them could occur, and in such a scenario, the weaker party would usually be the victim.

George issued an order; Bessita and the others quickly understood that they were in danger.

They gathered together and a few of them set up a simple defensive spell formation. The entire process was executed smoothly, indicating that they must have prepared and practiced beforehand.

While the acolytes were waiting nervously, a cloud of dust was nearing them.

Tak! Tak!

Along with the sound of footsteps from several horses, a team of five people appeared in Leylin's line of sight.

The leader was dressed in a white robe and had a broadsword on his back. Leylin found that the undulations emitted from a magic artifact originated from that large sword.

"It's such a large magic artifact. Interesting!" Leylin stroked his chin.

Usually, magic artifacts were much smaller due to the precious resources they had to be constructed from. Though this huge magic artifact was only of a low grade, this was Leylin's first time seeing one that was so large.

After recognizing such an eye-catching signature item, Bessita, and the two other acolytes from Wetland Gardens Academy first had an expression of disbelief, and then shouted, “It’s Jamu! It’s Senior Jamu!”

“Oh! Are you acolytes from Wetland Gardens Academy?” Leylin glanced at the three acolytes who left the defensive spell formation and went to receive the newcomers.

A hint of a smile appeared on Bessita’s face.

With the added bonus of her natural beauty, her smile caused the acolytes behind Jamu to be stunned for a moment.

Clop! Clop!

The group pulled on their reins, and with a wave from their leader Jamu, the five dismounted; their actions were precise as if they were from the military.

“Are you acolytes from the academy?”

Jamu, the leader, was a tall man with fair skin. He was a head taller than George and had blue hair. There was a red mole between his brows.

“Yes! Senior Jamu, we even met once at Professor Clarentino’s cocktail party...”

Upon seeing such a famous character, Alexander and Lana were rendered speechless and could do naught but hide behind Bessita.

Bessita, on the other hand, was very enthusiastic and chatted with Jamu, occasionally pointing towards Leylin and George.

Ten or so minutes later, Jamu approached George and Leylin.

“George! And this is Sheira...?”

Jamu raised his chin, arrogance evident in his eyes, “I’ve heard about you from Bessita. As thanks for helping them, I permit you to follow behind us to Marat Canyon.”

Jamu looked at them condescendingly, as if pitying them.

“Senior Jamu is one of the ten strongest in the academy in terms of battle power! With him around, we don’t have to worry about our safety!”

Bessita was boasting about his strength at the side, her entire body almost pressed against Jamu’s.

“You...” George still had his own pride after all and immediately wanted to say something, but Sheira stopped him.

“He’s right! Pome Alley has always been an area where bandits

are frequently seen. Without Bessita and the others, I doubt we'll be able to get through safely." Sheira murmured into George's ear.

After hearing his love's words George became gloomy, and he eventually forced a smile, "In that case, thank you Senior Jamu!"

"Hmph!" Jamu nodded reservedly and looked at Leylin.

"As for you, the dark Magus from before! During these sensitive times, our group does not welcome you!"

"You can't do this! Leylin is an acolyte from Four Seasons Garden, and has long since broken all ties with Abyssal Bone Forest Academy!" George hurriedly brought up.

"What credit do magicians who grew up in that sort of environment have to speak of? Who knows, perhaps his status as an acolyte of Four Seasons Garden was gained with unethical methods!"

Jamu laughed icily.

"I do think there's a large chance of him being a spy deployed by dark Magi, and we need to check his belongings!"

Behind Jamu, a freckled acolyte yelled.

"Bessita! What do you think?"

Leylin watched her with a hint of interest.

“I’m sorry Leylin! Though we once walked the same path, the safety of our companions is the priority now.”

Bessita seemed to be in a tough spot struggling with this decision.

“Do you have anything else to say?” Jamu crossed his arms.

While Alexander and Lana didn’t think Leylin was an enemy, but in front of Jamu, they didn’t dare say anything.

As for George, Shiera had pulled him back.

“For some useless revenge?” Leylin stared at Bessita. “How stupid!”

“But it seems like I don’t have to take care of you myself!”

“What do you mean?” Jamu was confused by Leylin’s words and Leylin’s attitude irked him. A bright radiance caused by magic appeared instantly from Jamu’s body, which made the atmosphere become serious.

Whoosh!

An acidic flying dart shot out, striking the arrogant freckled acolyte.

Sssii!

Along with the terrifying sound of corrosion, the acolyte melted into a pile of flesh, and red and green liquid under the gaze of the surrounding acolytes.

In the middle of the pile of flesh, several broken pieces of bones stayed upright.

“An enemy attack!” Bessita’s flustered voice sounded, and because it was so piercing, she sounded a little hoarse.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

In no time, Jamu, Leylin and everyone else were surrounded by around twenty bandits.

“Akai!” “You hateful brute!” “I’ll kill you!”

The three acolytes behind Jamu were outraged at seeing their companion die in such a tragic manner. Several waves of magic rushed towards the robed bandits.

“Hmph!”

The leader of the bandits stepped forward, a ring of black light dispersing from around his body.

Pak! Pak!

The acolytes used their spells against that black light, but like soap bubbles colliding against each other and bursting, their spells were all deflected..

“A magic artifact! A defensive magic artifact!”

Jamu narrowed his eyes at the realisation and stood in front of the three acolytes, protecting them.

“They’re not people you can deal with. Retreat first!”

“I am Jamu! What is your name?”

Clang! Metal scraped against metal as Jamu unbuckled the broadsword from his back. He held it with one arm and faced the robed bandit leader and asked for the enemy’s name.

“Hehe...”

Amidst strange giggles, the leader made his move.

Boom! A layer of the ground separated; soil and rocks were

suspended in the air, converging into the shape of a beast. Its jaws were wide open as it snapped at Jamu.

“Hah!”

A silver-white light flashed in the air as Jamu waved his hand.

A single line sliced towards the beast!

The surrounding greenery was destroyed in an instant; a gap separated the trees into two groups.

Chapter 199: Plant Type-Transfiguration

Weng!

The silver white light was extremely thin, and as it sliced at the beast formed from rock, not a single undulation was produced.

Bang!

The stone beast suddenly halted in mid-air, and with a gentle booming sound, the beast cracked, and was reduced to fragments of rock that rained down.

“The Wetland Gardens Academy’s ‘Broadsword Jamu’ is indeed formidable!”

The leader chuckled, seeming to be very familiar with Jamu.

“Who in the world are you?” Jamu frowned. Not only did these bandits have acolytes in the group, the bandits’ leader even had a magic artifact and knew so much about him. No matter how he thought about it, this leader wasn’t just any random bandit looking for a target!

He could smell something fishy and quite possibly dangerous going on here.

“Do you really think I’d tell you?” The bandit leader answered nonchalantly. “There should at least be a transmitting spell formation on you. The moment I expose anything about myself, the Wetland Gardens Academy will automatically have a record of it. Am I wrong?”

While he spoke, rays of black light emerged in the area surrounding him.

The black lights converged, forming warriors in armour. Their skulls were jet black.

“These are my darkness fighting troop that I especially prepared for you! Each dark warrior’s might is at at least 15 degrees! How about it? Enjoy the experience!”

Amidst the manic laughter, the black armoured warriors roared and rushed forward, trapping Jamu between them.

Seeing the more than ten dark warriors, Jamu’s face fell.

Although this large magic artifact of his was very powerful, its energy consumption rate was equally enormous. It was obvious that this bandit was intending to use cannon fodder and force him to use up his magic and spiritual force.

No matter how amazing an acolyte was, once his or her magic and spiritual force were depleted, he or she would only be

trampled on.

“Kill off the other acolytes. All items will belong to you!”

The black robed bandit leader hid behind the rows of dark warriors to stay protected and pointed towards Leylin and the other acolytes.

“Kill!” His underlings, the dark Magus acolytes, roared and rushed towards Leylin.

“Damn it! Try to prolong the fight. Once Senior Jamu takes care of the opposing leader, we’ll be safe!”

Bessita clenched her teeth and spoke to the acolytes behind her.

At the same time, she glanced towards Leylin’s direction.

“Let’s form an alliance! Otherwise, none of us will be able to survive!”

“Hmph!” George knew her suggestion was reasonable, but couldn’t help but snort in reply.

He wasn’t stupid and naturally knew what had just happened.

He really didn’t want to form an alliance with such a woman.

However, his rational side told him that this was the best way to get out of this difficult situation.

“George!” Sheira cast a worried glance at George. She had already readied her bow, which had been on her shoulder, and positioned it at her front.

“Leylin! Let’s do it!” George saw that the bandits were quickly closing in and unwillingly bellowed.

The muscles on his body bulged bit by bit, and in an instant, he turned into a giant that was more than three metres tall. At the same time, his skin had turned green, matching with the veins on his muscles that looked like connected earthworms. Leylin suddenly thought of the Incredible Hulk, a figure he was familiar with in his previous life.

“Roar!” After transforming into the green giant, George pounded on his naked chest and bellowed out a thundering roar.

He stomped on the ground, and with huge momentum, shot towards the incoming bandits like a lead bullet which had left a gun barrel.

Pa!

With a wave of George’s giant palm, a bandit was sent flying. Blood splattered all over, and the sound of bones breaking could be

heard. Even the piercing screeches of horror were overshadowed by this grisly sight and sound.

“What amazing power! Besides some flaws in speed and rationality, every other aspect is perfect!” Leylin watched George, who was freely utilizing his might, from a corner, his blue eyes flashing.

He never expected George to have majored in transfiguration!

However, this decision was easy to relate to, as Magi usually held high positions, and prioritised lengthening their lifespan.

For the average magician, advancing to the level of a Magus to gain a longer lifespan was much too difficult. Hence, by transplanting the organs of various powerful creatures and modifying one's body, one would be able to strengthen and increase his or her vitality. This had gradually become the norm amongst magicians.

The study of transmutation had thus become very popular amongst many.

Strictly speaking, the changes that a Warlock would undergo could actually be considered an extension of transmutation as well. At the very least, they were rather similar at the beginning stages.

Hence, when Leylin was at the Four Seasons Garden, he had concentrated on collecting all knowledge related to transmutation.

With the aid of the A.I. Chip, his knowledge in transmutation was at a level close to official Magi who had spent most of their life researching on this subject.

With just a look, Leylin could identify the creature George had used.

“Out of all the plants that can be transfigured, a Green Metal Tree? This is a popular choice amongst acolytes since it’s easy to work with and augments offensive prowess. Its defensive properties are not bad, and there are many ways in which one can advance. There aren’t too many restrictions!”

At this moment, the green giant that George had transformed into was in the center of the battlefield, grabbing an unlucky individual’s thigh. The poor man was used as a huge club and was swung around by George at any bandits who neared him.

This “human weapon” brushed against the ground from time to time, producing traces of bright red bloodstains. From the looks of it, the acolyte that George had caught was in a rather terrible situation.

Chi! Chi!

Meanwhile, there were several green arrows being shot by Sheira’s bow from behind George. She covered for George and helped him fend off attackers.

“Hm. They have good rapport!” Leylin nodded, looking incredibly relaxed.

Around him, there was a layer of invisible waves that could manipulate one’s mind. All acolytes who entered the domain he had set up would unconsciously choose to ignore him, and would instead fight amongst themselves.

Such a strange situation had obviously attracted the attentions of many.

“Look at him! The enemies aren’t going after him at all. He has got to be a spy!”

The three acolytes behind Jamu saw this odd situation, and immediately yelled.

“Uhh...” Leylin touched his nose.

His laid back appearance was rather eye catching in this desperate battle.

Before George and the others could react, the winner on the side of the battlefield where Jamu was had been decided.

“You’re forcing me to do this! Burst form! Activate!”

After waving his sword in quick succession, he scattered the

bunch of dark acolytes that approached and steeled his mind while looking at the numerous dark warriors around him.

He pressed a few points on his body, as if stimulating some special state.

In a split second, his blue hair exploded strand by strand, and immense energy undulations were emitted from his body.

Weng Weng!

The white broadsword in Jamu's hand also produced a rumble.

“Whirlwind, Second form!” Jamu shouted.

From within the sword, a violent, green hurricane emerged!

The tremendous hurricane shrouded Jamu's body, and he rapidly spun along with it.

The green hurricane was like a spinning top, with the surface being the edge of the broadsword. Like the wind, it swept through the battlefield, along with the hordes of dark warriors.

Peng! Peng! Peng! Peng!

The dark warriors that had been swept up in the green hurricane

looked like they were caught by a large, shapeless hand and forced into a vortex. They scattered into countless black pieces that flew about in the air.

The violent hurricane instantly destroyed the dark warriors' layers of defense and quickly approached the bandit leader.

“Night Devil!”

The bandit leader produced a black ring and yelled, the gaze in his eyes frantic for the very first time.

Peng!

Numerous black rays emanated from the ring and formed a large black shield in front of him. There were fine black barbed tips on the surface, with the sheen of a metallic luster.

When the attacks from the hurricane struck against the black shield, a gigantic energy shock wave engulfed the area.

Boom!

Along with the loud noise, the explosion left a deep crater on the surface of the ground. An entire layer of the ground had been turned up, exposing plant roots and countless stones.

Even the side of the battlefield that Leylin was on was affected!

Whether it was the bandits or the acolytes near Leylin, everyone was in a pitiful state.

After the blast wave had died down, dust flew all over like a curtain and covered the battlefield.

The two opposing forces stopped all actions, and focused their gazes on the centre of the area.

After a moment, the dust dispersed and revealed the area.

In the middle of the crater, innumerable crevices had split open like cobwebs under the two combatants' feet. Jamu's two hands were fixed firmly on his silver white broadsword, pressed against the surface of the black shield.

“Hah! Hah!”

Jamu was panting roughly, beads of sweat rolling down his forehead.

It was obvious that the violent explosion had taken a toll on his physical strength.

“Hehe... I acknowledge your strength, but so what? You've probably used up all your spiritual force at this point, no? I wonder how much energy is still left in the reserves of that large sword of

yours.”

The bandit leader snickered.

With the sounds of his laughter, the black light from the shield began to suppress the sword.

The strain could be seen on Jamu’s expression as the broadsword was gradually forced backwards by the shield.

“Jamu—Senior Jamu!” The acolytes who had come with Jamu murmured worriedly, their voices breaking.

“Jamu won’t actually lose right? He’s the number 1 genius acolyte of the academy...”

Bessita’s little face had turned pale as she scanned the surroundings.

“Hehe... I’ll bring your head back, hang it in my bedroom, and treat it as my most treasured collection item!” The bandit leader snickered complacently.

“Unfortunately, you’re the one who’s going to lose! Furthermore, I’ll be the one stepping over your body as if I’m stepping over stones!”

Chapter 200: A Dark Magus!

Jamu's face turned red and he suddenly shouted, "Third Form!"

An instant later, blood oozed from his skin.

The great amount of blood soaked into his clothes, staining it red. His whole body currently looked as if he had just been fished out of an ocean of blood.

With his blood bubbling up, a shocking amount of terrifying spiritual force was also sent out from Jamu's body suddenly.

The large sword in Jamu's hand immediately turned a bright red color, and its radiance momentarily grew by several metres.

Peng!

The bandit leader's black metal shield was broken into pieces by the blood-red sword.

Following which, Jamu swung the sword in his hands and aimed a fierce chop at the black-garbed bandit leader.

Sssii!

The black-garbed bandit leader was sent flying by the attack, and

the black ring-shaped magic artifact on his body shattered into pieces in mid-air. It then turned into fine dust, which drifted off with the wind.

“Good work, Jamu!”

“You truly are worthy of being called Senior Jamu!”

Witnessing this scene, all the other people from the Wetland Gardens Academy immediately began to cheer.

Jamu, on the other hand, immediately turned around with his sword aimed at the remaining bandits.

Apparently, he had planned to dispose of all these enemies in one breath; after all, the third form also placed a heavy burden on him and had other troublesome after effects.

“Jamu is the best...” Bessita said, seeing Jamu’s unusual power. She blushed, stars flashing in her eyes.

“Pieces of trash! You have forced my hand!”

Suddenly, a strange hoarse voice could be heard.

After hearing this voice, the bandits, who had been arrogant up until a moment ago, kneeled down as if they had seen God, their bodies slightly trembling.

Following this voice, a huge black palm appeared in midair and slammed at Jamu, just like someone swatting a housefly.

Thump!

The black palm merely swatted, yet the blood-red sword in Jamu's hand was sent flying. Soon after, a fist struck out. Jamu's chest caved in, and he spurted out a large amount of blood as he was thrown back.

“An offi...official Magus?”

Lying on the ground, Jamu's expression was one of incredulity, and then he lost consciousness.

“Official Magus?” Bessita's expression paled, and she felt limp and collapsed as if the bones in her body had been removed. “We are finished!”

Although they had heard that there was a dark official Magus hiding in one of the many bandit groups, they had not anticipated that they would encounter this particular one.

This was a high and mighty Magus! Would he even put their small group of acolytes in his eyes?

Unfortunately, the reality was cruel, and what one least expected

would always happen.

The dark Magus was clothed in a black robe with golden accents, and with a black fog obscured his appearance, he instantly appeared in front of them.

Awooooo! George issued a loud howl and faced the dark Magus head-on.

Though powerful, George's gigantic green form caused side effects such as losing rationality for an indeterminate period randomly. This effect was more obvious when the body was transformed.

He instinctively rushed towards the middle of the battlefield, heading for the dark Magus who was immensely pressuring him.

"George! Don't!" shouted Shiera, with a look of despair on her face.

"A lowly acolyte dares to attack this mighty Lord Magus?"

The dark Magus sneered. A dangerous green phosphorescent claw from an unknown beast latched onto George.

Puchi!

Suddenly, raging black fireballs struck this strange claw.

The raging black fireballs seemed to fill the sky and dyed it a dark black.

This was merely a green claw, and though it tried to persist within the black flame, it was burned to ashes within a few seconds.

“Who was that?” The dark-gowned Magus asked in rage.

“Ai...” was the reply he heard, a soft and gentle sigh.

Immediately, Leylin’s body flashed past in a dark ray of light, appearing in front of George, who had transformed into the green giant.

At this moment, however, there was some drool flowing from one side of George’s mouth—he had completely lost his rationality. Seeing Leylin, he attempted to grab him.

The green giant’s arms had flexible and sturdy muscles, causing violent gales when they moved.

While facing this attack, Leylin calmly extended his right hand.

Bang!

The huge fist was directly blocked by the pale, slender palm of

Leylin.

At this moment, Leylin's body was like an infant's when compared to that of the green giant, but even so, Leylin still resisted the green giant's full strength attack.

This scene appeared to be all too hilarious, but not a single person present was laughing.

“An offi...official Magus?”

Alexander's jaws snapped wide open—thus resembling a toad—and he said, “Leylin is an official Magus! My heavens...”

“How foolish were we?” Lana and the other acolytes also were gaping foolishly.

As for Bessita, this woman had basically become paralyzed on the ground—in short, she was unable to say anything!

The only one who looked happy at all was Shiera.

Currently, George was on the ground, bound by many black chains which sprouted from the ground underneath Leylin.

Following which, the transformation of George's body seemed to be undergoing a change; it began shrinking while emitting steam. He gradually shrunk, and later regained the build of an ordinary

man.

“George!” Shiera hurriedly approached and helped remove the black chains from George’s body.

George was in a coma, and his body was involuntarily twitching. He looked terrible; his face still had large patches of green, and his lips had lost their colour.

“Ley.....My Lord, I request that you save him.” Shiera clasped George’s face, a harried look on her own face.

“No need to worry!”

“This is only a biological rejection from the cells of a Green Metal Tree. It is very easy to solve.”

A milky-white beam emitted from Leylin’s palm, which was then irradiated onto George’s face.

When the milky white beam turned into thin white rays that bored through George’s nose and ears, the green patches on his face vanished at a very quick speed. A few seconds later, George assumed a serene expression, like an ordinary sleeping person.

After handling George, Leylin slowly stood up and saw the Magus in the black fog waiting at the side.

“I truly didn’t expect that I would run into an official Magus here.”

The voice of the dark Magus, whose face was wrapped in fog, sounded out. This voice belonged to neither a male nor a female; it was clearly a fake voice.

“I, too, didn’t expect that I would meet a dark Magus while taking a stroll after concealing my identity,” Leylin stated flatly.

Even though he had participated in a lot of raids and other such missions with the Thousands Meddling Hands, that was only for dealing with goals that had a degree of difficulty similar to raiding the Ennea Ivory Ring Tower.

As an official Magus, resorting to being a bandit and robbing acolytes was something he couldn’t do.

It seemed that the dark Magus who was facing Leylin was poverty-stricken. His strength, spiritual force, and the energy waves fluctuating from his body seemed comparatively weak. He must have recently broken through. His spiritual force and elemental essence conversion were also very low.

“In that case, I will give you some face and let them all off!” The dark Magus quickly spoke up.

Due to the lack of benefits, no Magus in their right mind would battle an enemy at the same level as themselves.

“Thanks!”

Leylin replied in a faint voice.

While he was considering that the enemy might go on ahead, the other dark Magus said, “Additionally, I have some exclusive information regarding the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane. Do you want to hear it?”

“News about the Eternal River Plains’ secret plane?” Doubtful, Leylin glanced at this dark Magus, sizing him up.

Based on the enemy’s strength, it would not be possible for him to have gathered any information. When he came across such lucky opportunities, Leylin generally maintained extreme caution.

“Not bad!”

However, Leylin still agreed, wanting to see what this dark Magus was trying to pull.

“You should leave first!”

The Magus in a black robe spoke to the horde of bandits, who were lucky to have survived.

“Yes, my lord!”

All of the bandits present immediately moved around wildly in their fright, and before one could blink, they had already disappeared.

Heavens! They had believed they would be raiding only a group of acolytes, and they did not think that they would unexpectedly find an official Magus within this group.

Moreover, seeing the attitude of their true leader, the other party's strength must have truly been very terrifying.

If a person like Leylin were to be in a bad mood, killing the bandits would be as difficult as dealing with an ant.

Thus, these bandits helped the fallen acolytes get up, and disappeared like the wind, leaving a mess behind.

“You all wait here for me!”

Leylin saw that after he had spoken, all the acolytes in his group bowed their bodies, including Bessita.

These acolytes had picked up this habit within their academies. Towards a Magus, they were required to show extreme respect and caution. Otherwise, they would be severely punished.

Seeing this scene, Leylin inwardly smiled and immediately left

with the black-fog-masked dark Magus.

“Can we speak here?”

After the dark Magus had reached a faraway place, Leylin shouted, making the dark Magus halt.

“Finally, what is the news that you have? If what you say is really valuable, then no matter how many magic crystals or whatever else you want in exchange, I will not be stingy with it...”

“It is not very secure here. I need to bring you to a place where no one will be able to eavesdrop.” The dark Magus began explaining.

“Is that so?” Leylin was suspicious, but he still went along with this dark Magus.

“We’re here now.”

The dark Magus led Leylin to a strange pile of scattered stones

“I set up an isolation spell formation here that will ensure that all we say will stay private, and nobody will be able to listen in on our conversation.”

The Magus, whose face was concealed by dark fog, and could not have his or her gender identified, went straight for the middle of the pile of stones. Leylin, on the other hand, hesitated and stopped

in his tracks.

“What’s wrong? Do you not believe me?”

The Magus surrounded by black fog questioned.